(54) **Production of enzymes in seeds and their use**

Herstellung von Enzymen in Samen und ihre Verwendung

Production d'enzymes dans des semences et leur utilisation

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Description

Field of the Invention

[0001] The instant invention pertains to the production of enzymes of interest in the seeds of transgenic plants and the use of the thus-produced seeds in industrial processes, without the need for extraction and/or isolation of the enzyme.

Background of the Invention

[0002] A number of industries are using enzymes for their processes. These include detergents, textiles, dairy, food and beverage, feed and other industries.

[0003] At the present, enzymes are produced on an industrial scale by fermentation processes or are isolated from plant or animal sources. Microbially produced enzymes include proteases, amylases, cellulases, pectinases, phytases and others. Enzyme production by a fermentation process is highly efficient and production levels of more than 10 grams per liter culture medium can be reached.

[0004] The possibility of using transgenic plants as a production system for valuable proteins has been proposed. Examples to date are the production of interferon in tobacco (Goodman et al., 1987), enkephalins in tobacco, Brassica napus and Arabidopsis thaliana (Vandekerckhove et al., 1989), antibodies in tobacco (Hiatt et al., 1990) and human serum albumin in tobacco and potato (Sijmons et al., 1990).

[0005] In practice, the transformation of an increasing number of plant species, especially dicotyledonous species (e.g. tobacco, potato, tomato, Petunia, Brassica), has become a routine procedure for workers skilled in the art (Klee et al., 1987; Gasser & Fraley, 1989). Strategies for the expression of foreign genes in plants have become well established (Gasser & Fraley, 1989). Regulatory sequences from plant genes have been identified that are used for the construction of chimeric genes that can be functionally expressed in plants and plant cells.

[0006] For the introduction of gene constructions into plants, several technologies are available, such as transformation with Agrobacterium tumefaciens or Agrobacterium rhizogenes. Using this strategy, a wide variety of plant tissues have been exploited, the choice being largely dependent on the plant species and its amenability in tissue culture. Successful examples are the transformation of protoplasts, microspores or pollen, and explants such as leaves, stems, roots, hypocotyls and cotyls. Furthermore, methods for direct DNA introduction in protoplasts and plant cells or tissues are used such as microinjection, electroporation, particle bombardment and direct DNA uptake (Gasser & Fraley, 1989).

[0007] Proteins may be produced in plant seeds using a variety of expression systems. For instance, the use of a constitutive promoter such as the 35S promoter of Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV) (Guilley et al., 1982) will result in the accumulation of the expressed protein in the seeds, inter alia, of the transgenic plant. Alternatively, use may be made of promoters from genes encoding seed storage proteins. Seed storage proteins are expressed in a highly tissue-specific and stage-specific manner (Higgins, 1984; Shotwell & Larkins, 1989), i.e., the genes are expressed only in seed and only during the stage of seed development.

[0008] A seed storage protein (reviewed in Higgins, 1984; Shotwell & Larkins, 1989) is defined as any protein which accumulates in significant quantities (up to 90% of total seed protein) in the developing seed and which on germination is hydrolyzed to provide a nutritional source for the early stages of seedling growth. The proteins are contained in an intracellular compartment called the protein body or storage vacuole. This protein body contains protease inhibitors and creates a protease-free environment. The proteases that degrade the storage proteins become active 3-6 days after germination (Larkins, 1981).

[0009] Many seed storage protein genes have been isolated and characterized, as well as their 5' and 3' flanking regions (reviewed by Casey & Domoney, 1987). Examples for the globulins and albumins are the glycinin and conglycinin genes of soybean (Fischer & Goldberg, 1982; Harada et al., 1989), the legumin and vicilin genes from pea (Lycett et al., 1984; Higgins et al., 1988), the 11S field bean gene (Baumlein et al., 1986), the 7S phaseolin gene from Phaseolus (Doyle et al., 1986), the cruciferin and napin genes from Brassica (Ryan et al., 1989; Scofield & Crough, 1987; Radke et al., 1988), the helianthin gene from sunflower (Vonder Haar et al., 1988; Jordano et al., 1989) and the 2S albumin and cruciferin genes from Arabidopsis thaliana (Vandekerckhove et al., 1989; Pang et al., 1988). Other examples may be found in the genes encoding the prolamins and glutelins (Casey & Domoney, 1987). Generally, the storage proteins are encoded by multigene families.

[0010] Seed storage protein genes have been transferred to tobacco, petunia and rapeseed (Okamura et al., 1986; Beachy et al., 1984; Sengupta-Gopalan et al., 1985; Higgins et al., 1988; Ellis et al., 1988; Barker et al., 1988, Vandekerckhove et al., 1989; Altenbach et al., 1989). The 5' upstream regulatory region of beta-phaseolin from pea was used to direct the expression of beta-glucuronidase (Bustos et al., 1989), phytohemaglutinin (Voelker et al., 1989), luciferase (Riggs et al., 1989) and zein (Hoffman et al., 1987) in tobacco. The promoter of the Arabidopsis thaliana 2S albumin gene was used to direct the expression of a modified 2S albumin from the same species in tobacco, Brassica napus

and Arabidopsis thaliana (Vandekerckhove et al., 1989). The genes mentioned above were expressed in a tissue-specific and developmentally regulated manner, i.e., in seed during seed development. The expression levels in all these reports varied, but reached levels as high as 1.7% of the total seed protein (Voelker et al., 1989). It has been found that cDNA can replace genomic DNA containing introns as the basis for obtaining a functional and stable mRNA in the heterologous expression (Chee et al., 1986). These results demonstrate that a person skilled in the art of plant molecular biology can design strategies for seed-specific expression of a given gene in a target plant species that is amenable to transformation technology.

[0011] During seed development of dicots, a large part of the total protein synthesis is directed into the vacuole or the protein bodies of storage parenchyma cells. For regulation of this process, the proteins are generally synthesized as precursors. The precursor proteins are equipped with hydrophobic signal peptides, usually at the N-terminus, that are cleaved off at specific stages. A large number of storage protein signal peptides have been described (Doyle et al., 1986; Pang et al., 1988; Vonder Haar et al., 1988; Iturriaga et al., 1989; Dorel et al., 1989; Voelker et al., 1989; Hattori et al., 1985; Lycett et al., 1983; Smith & Raikhel, 1989).

[0012] The general applicability of signal peptides in heterologous expressions systems (e.g., Sijmons et al., 1990; Vitale & Bollini, 1986; Slightom et al. 1986; Della-Cioppa et al., 1987) seems to support the idea that a fusion of a signal peptide with a heterologous "passenger protein" may be used for transporting and processing of the passenger protein. The references suggest that a variety of potential "passenger proteins" are candidates for such an expression system.

[0013] However, in spite of the attractiveness and viability of the use of plants as bioreactors, the system up until now is not without difficulties. For the examples described above, the plant is used as a bioreactor and the protein of interest is then isolated from the transgenic plant material, i.e., from the tissues containing the highest levels of the protein of interest. The isolation of the protein of interest from the seeds in which it is produced inherently introduces complications as well as added cost (Krebbers & Vandekerckhove, 1990).

[0014] A possible solution to this problem may be to avoid the need to extract the expressed protein from the plant material. East German patent DD 275,704 discloses a construct for the expression of a heat stable beta-glucanase in the ungerminated seeds of transformed barley plants and the use of the seeds in brewing processes. However, a persistent problem in the manipulation of small grain cereal crops has been not only the transformation of the protoplasts of cereal plants but the regeneration of the transformed plants as well, which are not enabled in the patent's disclosure. Thus, it would not be possible to obtain enzyme-containing seeds using the process as described in the publication.

Summary of the Invention

[0015] According to the present invention, a method for use of transgenic seeds containing at least one enzyme of interest is provided. The transgenic seeds can be used in various industrial processes or in food and feedstuffs as catalysts for digestive reactions, without the need for first extracting and/or isolating said enzymes.

[0016] The present invention also provides for the use of the seeds of transgenic plants as a stable and manageable storage form of enzymes. The enzymes are maintained in a dessicated environment which is low in protease activity and thus are protected against degradation.

[0017] Moreover, the use of seeds for the storage of enzymes provides a stable vehicle which is easily packaged and transported, and easily handled during actual use.

[0018] The present invention further provides a viable solution to the expensive and problematic process of the extraction of enzymes of interest from the seeds in which they are produced. The enzymes remain stable inside the seed and as such may be used as a replacement for the pure enzyme. This benefit, coupled with the low cost of growing seed-producing plants, provides an economical source of such enzymes. Thus, the present invention allows for the reduction of costs associated with the production, storage and use of a variety of enzymes.

Description of the Figures

[0019]

Figure 1.	Strategy for the cloning of phytase cDNA.
Figure 2.	Binary vector pMOG23.
Figure 3.	Genomic sequence of the seed-storage protein gene cruciferin from Brassica napus.
Figure 4.	Synthetic oligonucleotide duplexes used for the various constructions.
Figure 5.	Plasmid pMOG429. Binary vector pMOG23 containing the cDNA part of phytase encoding the mature enzyme downstream of a DNA sequence encoding the cruciferin signal peptide.
Figure 6.	The effects of the addition of ground seeds containing phytase on the liberation of inorganic phosphorous from phytate.
Figure 7.	Genomic sequence of the a-amylase gene of Bacillus licheniformis as present in vector pPROM54.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

[0020]   Enzymes of interest which may be produced by the present invention include any enzymes which are capable of use in an industrial process.

[0021]   The enzymes of interest include enzymes which are heterologous to the plant (i.e. not native to the plant species) in which they are produced. Also intended are enzymes, homologous to the plants (i.e. native to the plant species) in which they are produced, which are overexpressed via recombinant DNA techniques.

[0022]   Such enzymes are selected from hydrolases such as proteases, cellulases, hemi-cellulases, phosphatases, lipases, pectinases, amylases, lysozymes, pullulanases and chitinases; lyases such as pectinlyase; and isomerases such as glucose isomerase.

[0023]   Preferred enzymes are phytase, α-amylase, cellobiohydrolase, endo-glucanase, endo-xylanase, endo-galactanase, α-galactosidase, arabinanase, serine-proteases, chymosin, papain, gastric lipases, pectin lyase and glucose isomerase.

[0024]   By industrial processes is intended processes in which extracted and/or isolated enzymes are normally included in a reaction mixture, either in vivo or in vitro, containing at least one substrate, wherein the enzymes are capable of catalyzing such reaction of the substrate(s) so as to produce desired effects or products.

[0025]   Examples of such industrial processes include, but are not limited to, in vitro processes such as the use of phytases in soy processing or in an industrial process such as wet milling or for the production of inositol or inositol-phosphates from phytate. Hemi-cellulases and cellulases may also be used as cell wall degrading enzymes, in general. In a like manner, a-amylases may be used in the baking industry to improve the consistency of baked products; α-amylase, amyloglucosidase, xylanases and/or glucose isomerase may be used in starch liquefaction; ligninases and/or xylanases may be used in the paper industry; glucanases, pectinases and/or cellulases may be used in the food and beverage industry, e.g., in fermentation or brewing processes.

[0026]   Apart from the above-mentioned action of enzymes in in vitro processes, the enzymes stored in seeds may be used to catalyze digestive reactions in vivo. In this manner, the enzymes facilitate the release of nutrients from foodstuffs which otherwise would not be readily available to the animal which ingests them.

[0027]   Enzymes to be used in such in vivo processes include, but are not limited to, phytases, cellulases, hemi-cellulases, pectinases and amylases. The enzymes as will lead to improved digestion of the foodstuffs. Enzymes as digestive aids can also be used in humans, for instance in illnesses such as cystic fibrosis or other causes of pancreatic insufficiencies. Lipases, proteases, and cellulases contained in seeds may be used as therapeutic additives to alleviate digestive problems associated with such illnesses.

[0028]   According to the present invention, the desired enzyme is produced in the seeds of transgenic plants. The thus-produced seeds are in turn used in an industrial process which requires the enzyme contained therein, without the need for first extracting and/or isolating the enzyme.

[0029]   It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that seeds containing enzymes for industrial use may be directly used in such processes, or may first be prepared for such use by means of grinding to the desired consistency. In either case, the whole or ground seeds may be fed as such into the desired process without the need for further extraction and/or isolation of the enzyme, and also without loss of activity of the enzyme.

[0030]   Transgenic plants, as defined in the context of the present invention, include plants and their progeny, which have been genetically modified to cause or enhance production of at least one enzyme of interest in their seeds. The production of the enzymes of interest is thus increased over the level found in the wild-type plant variety.

[0031]   In the context of the present invention, the phrase "seeds containing an enhanced amount of enzyme" refers specifically to a statistically significant number of seeds which, on average, contain a statistically significant greater

amount of an enzyme as compared with the average amount of enzyme in an equal number of non-modified seeds.

[0032] Plant genera which are capable of producing the enzyme of interest in their seed by practice of the present invention include, but are not limited to, Nicotiana (e.g., tabacum), Brassica (e.g., napus and oleracea), Arabidopsis, Glycine (e.g., max), Zea (e.g., mays), Amaranthus, Hordeum (e.g., vulgarum), and Pisum (e.g., sativum), Juglans (e. g. regia), Arachis (e.g. hypogeae), Medicago (e.g. sativa), Phaseolus (e.g. vulgaris), Pisum (e.g. sativum), Triticum (e. g. aestivum), Panicum L., Helianthus (e.g. annus), Avena (e.g. sativa) and Oryza (e.g. sativa).

[0033] Preferably, the species of choice must have a large production of seed per plant per annum and the chemical and physical properties of the seed should be compatible with the industrial process for which the enzyme is produced. For instance, in some cases when these seeds (after transformation of the parent plant) are to be included in foodstuffs, one may choose a plant species that produces seeds which are low in tannins or other antinutritional factors. In other cases the ability of the transgenic seeds to be ground to the desired consistence may be the criterion of choice when the seeds are used as additives, e.g., in flour. In yet another embodiment, the seeds containing the enzymes of interest may be directly applied to the desired process (e.g. in feedstuffs), per se, optionally preceded by dehusking and/or drying after harvesting.

[0034] The choice of the most suitable plant species can be based on reconstitution experiments. The enzyme of interest can be added together with wild-type seeds to the industrial process for which the transgenic seeds will eventually be produced.

[0035] The genetic modification of the above-described seed-producing plants intends that an expression construct containing a gene encoding an enzyme of interest is introduced into the target plant. This expression construct may include a gene, heterologous to the plant, which is under the control of promoter and termination regions capable of regulating the expression of the gene encoding the enzyme of interest in the seeds of the plant. Also intended is a gene, homologous to the plant which is under the control of a regulatory region capable of effecting the overproduction of the enzyme of interest. By overproduction is intended production of the enzyme of interest at levels above that which is found in the wild-type plant variety.

[0036] Several techniques are available for the introduction of the expression construct containing a DNA sequence encoding an enzyme of interest into the target plants. Such techniques include but are not limited to transformation of protoplasts using the calcium/polyethylene glycol method, electroporation and microinjection or (coated) particle bombardment (Potrykus, 1990).

[0037] In addition to these so-called direct DNA transformation methods, transformation systems involving vectors are widely available, such as viral vectors (e.g. from the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV)) and bacterial vectors (e.g. from the genus Agrobacterium) (Potrykus, 1990). After selection and/or screening, the protoplasts, cells or plant parts that have been transformed can be regenerated into whole plants, using methods known in the art (Horsch, R.B. et al., 1985). The choice of the transformation and/or regeneration techniques is not critical for this invention.

[0038] For dicots, a preferred embodiment of the present invention uses the principle of the binary vector system (Hoekema et al., 1983; Schilperoort et al., 1984) in which Agrobacterium strains are used which contain a vir plasmid with the virulence genes and a compatible plasmid containing the gene construct to be transferred. This vector can replicate in both E. coli and in Agrobacterium, and is derived from the binary vector Bin19 (Bevan, 1984) which is altered in details that are not relevant for this invention. The binary vectors as used in this example contain between the left- and right-border sequences of the T-DNA, an identical NPTII-gene coding for kanamycin resistance (Bevan, 1984) and a multiple cloning site to clone in the required gene constructs.

[0039] The transformation and regeneration of monocotyledonous crops is not a standard procedure. However, recent scientific progress shows that in principle monocots are amenable to transformation and that fertile transgenic plants can be regenerated from transformed cells. The development of reproducible tissue culture systems for these crops, together with the powerful methods for introduction of genetic material into plant cells has facilitated transformation. Presently the methods of choice for transformation of monocots are microprojectile bombardment of explants or suspension cells, and direct DNA uptake or electroporation of protoplasts. For example, transgenic rice plants have been successfully obtained using the bacterial hph gene, encoding hygromycin resistance, as a selection marker. The gene was introduced by electroporation (Shimamoto et al., 1989). Transgenic maize plants have been obtained by introducing the Streptomyces hygroscopicus bar gene, which encodes phosphinothricin acetyltransferase (an enzyme which inactivates the herbicide phosphinothricin), into embryogenic cells of a maize suspension culture by microparticle bombardment (Gordon-Kamm et al., 1990). The introduction of genetic material into aleurone protoplasts of other monocot crops such as wheat and barley has been reported (Lee et al., 1989). Wheat plants have been regenerated from embryogenic suspension culture by selecting only the aged compact and nodular embryogenic callus tissues for the establishment of the embryogenic suspension cultures (Vasil et al., 1990). The combination with transformation systems for these crops enables the application of the present invention to monocots. These methods may also be applied for the transformation and regeneration of dicots.

[0040] The expression of recombinant genes in plants involves such details as transcription of the gene by plant polymerases, translation of mRNA, etc., which are known to persons skilled in the art of recombinant DNA techniques.

Only details relevant for the proper understanding of this invention are discussed below.

[0041] Regulatory sequences which are known or are found to cause sufficiently high expression (for the purpose of the specific application, as discussed below) of the recombinant DNA in seeds, can be used in the present invention. Such regulatory sequences may be obtained from plants or plant viruses, or chemically synthesized. Such regulatory sequences are promoters active in directing transcription in seeds. These include, but are not limited to, promoters from seed-specific genes, especially those of storage protein genes, such as the cruA promoter of Brassica napus (Ryan et al., 1989) or promoters of constitutively expressed genes, such as the 35S promoter of CaMV (Cauliflower Mosaic Virus) (Guilley et al., 1982). Other regulatory sequences are terminator sequences and polyadenylation signals, including every sequence functioning as such in plants; examples are the 3' flanking region of the nopaline synthase gene of Agrobacterium tumefaciens or the 3' flanking region of the cruA gene of Brassica napus. The regulatory sequences may also include enhancer sequences, such as found in the 35S promoter of CaMV, and mRNA stabilizing sequences such as the leader sequence of Alfalfa Mosaic Virus (AlMV) RNA4 (Brederode et al., 1980) or any other sequences functioning as such.

[0042] The protein of interest should be in an environment that allows optimal stability of the protein during seed maturation. The choice of cellular compartments, such as cytosol, endoplasmic reticulum, vacuole, protein body or periplasmic space can be used in the present invention to create such a stable environment, depending on the biophysical parameters of the protein of interest. Such parameters include, but are not limited to, pH-optimum, sensitivity to proteases or sensitivity to the molarity of the preferred compartment. Although homologous signal sequences are preferred, heterologous signal sequences may be used as well. Especially preferred are signal sequences obtained from seed storage proteins.

[0043] The seed storage proteins can be divided into four major classes based on solubility characteristics:

1. Albumins--soluble in water and subdivided in two main classes (12S and 2S). The 12S class includes lectins isolated from pea and various beans, e.g., 2S albumins from Brassica napus, Arabidopsis thaliana, Ricinus communis (castor bean), Bertholletia excelsa (Brazil nut), pea, radish and sunflower.
2. Globulins-soluble in salt solutions and may be either of the 7-8S class like the phaseolins from Phaseolus, the vicilins from pea, the conglycinins from soybean, the oat-vicilins from oat and 7S globulins from other species, or of the 11-14S class such as the legumins from pea, the glycinins from soybean, the helianthins from sunflower, the cruciferins from rape or 11-14S proteins from other species such as Arabidopsis and bean.
3. Prolamins--soluble in aqueous alcohol, e.g., zeins from corn, the hordeins from barley, the gliadins isolated from wheat and the kafirins from sorghum.
4. Glutelins--soluble in acidic or alkaline solutions and may be isolated from wheat.

[0044] Although there are exceptions, the major storage proteins in seed of dicotyledonous plants are globulins, and those of monocotyledonous plants are prolamins and glutelins.

[0045] All parts of the relevant DNA constructs (promoters; regulatory, stabilizing, signal or termination sequences) of the present invention may be modified, if desired, to affect their control characteristics using methods known to those skilled in the art. The amount of recombinant protein (the "expression level") needed in the seed should be sufficiently high to use the transgenic seed as a minor additive (on a volume, weight or cost base) in all preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0046] A number of methods may be used to obtain transgenic plants of which the seeds contain more than one enzyme of interest. These include, but are not limited to:

a. Cross-fertilization of transgenic plants expressing one or more enzymes of interest.
b. Plant transformation with a DNA fragment or plasmid that contains multiple genes encoding enzymes of interest, using the necessary regulatory sequences.
c. Plant transformation with different DNA fragments or plasmids simultaneously, each containing a gene for an enzyme of interest, using the necessary regulatory sequences.
d. Successive transformation of plants, each time using a DNA fragment or plasmid encoding a different enzyme of interest under the control of the necessary regulatory sequences.
e. A combination of the methods mentioned above.

[0047] The actual method used to obtain seeds which contain more than one enzyme of interest is not critical with respect to the objective of this invention.

[0048] It is pointed out that seeds containing enhanced amounts of enzymes could be obtained by processes, known to those skilled in the art, other than those recombinant processes mentioned above provided those processes result in obtaining seeds with enhanced amounts of enzymes as compared with the wild-type seeds. For example, it might be possible to obtain such seeds by the use of somaclonal variation techniques. Further, such techniques could be

used by themselves or in combination with breeding techniques which employ the concept of cytoplasmic male sterility (Cms) or nuclear male sterility (Nms) (Mariani et al., 1990). Techniques such as somaclonal variation and cross-breeding involving the use of Cms or Nms could be used in combination with the recombinant technologies mentioned above in order to further increase the relative amounts of enzymes present within the seeds. With respect to non recombinant techniques which might be utilized to enhance the amount of enzymes within seeds reference is made to U.S. Patent No. 4,378,655 issued 7 April 1983 which patent is incorporated herein by reference to disclose such techniques. It is pointed out that there are numerous publications describing breeding techniques involving cytoplasmic male sterility which was discovered by P. LeClercq in 1968 and the corresponding dominant fertility restoring genes (Rf) which were discovered by M.L. Kinmar et al. in 1970. Recently, the use of nuclear male sterility has been described by Mariani et al. in 1990. More generalized disclosures relating to plant breeding are discussed within James R. Welsh "Fundamentals of Plant Genetics and Breeding", 1981 as well as within J.M. Poehlman, "Breeding Field Crops", 1959.

[0049] In one embodiment of the present invention, a doublestranded cDNA encoding phytase is prepared from mRNA isolated from Aspergillus ficuum (van Gorcom et al., 1991). The DNA construct is placed under the control of regulatory sequences from the 12S storage protein cruciferin from Brassica napus. The construct is thereafter subcloned into a binary vector such as pMOG23 (in E. coli K-12 strain DH5a, deposited at the Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn, the Netherlands on January 29, 1990, under accession number CBS 102.90). This vector is introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens which contains a disarmed Ti plasmid. Bacterial cells containing this construct are cocultivated with tissues from tobacco or Brassica plants, and transformed plant cells are selected by nutrient media containing antibiotics and induced to regenerate into differentiated plants on such media. The resulting plants produce seeds that contain and express the DNA construct.

[0050] In another embodiment of the present invention, the phytase-encoding DNA construct is placed under the control of regulatory sequences from the 35S promoter of Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV). The construct is thereafter subcloned into a binary vector. This vector is then introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens which contains a disarmed Ti plasmid. Bacterial cells containing this construct are co-cultivated with tissues from tobacco or Brassica plants, and transformed plant cells are selected by nutrient media containing antibiotics and induced to regenerate into differentiated plants on such media. The resulting plants contain and express the DNA construct constitutively.

[0051] The phytase enzyme activity of the transgenic seeds may be determined by a variety of methods, not critical to the present invention, such as an ELISA assay, Western blotting or direct enzyme assays using colorimetric techniques or native gel assays.

[0052] The seeds containing the thus-produced phytase can be used in industrial processes such as in feed additives for nonruminants, in soy processing, or in the production of inositol or inositol phosphates from phytate. If necessary or desired, the seeds may first be ground to the desired consistency before use, depending on the nature of the industrial process, without the need for further extraction and/or isolation of the phytase. One of ordinary skill in the art may determine whether such preparatory steps are necessary.

[0053] Phytase produced in seed can also be used in a process for steeping corn or sorghum kernels. Seeds may be ground before adding to steeping corn. Phytase liberated from the seeds can act on phytin, which is present in many corn preparations. Degradation of phytin in steeping corn is beneficial for the added commercial value of corn steep liquor, which is used as animal feed or as a nutrient in microbial fermentations. Furthermore, the degradation of phytin can prevent problems relating to the accumulation of deposits in filters, pipes, reactor vessels, etc., during concentration, transport and storage of corn steep liquor (Vaara et al., 1989). The action of phytase can also accelerate the steeping process and the separation processes involved in corn wet milling.

[0054] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a genomic DNA fragment encoding a-amylase from Bacillus licheniformis is placed under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter and enhancer sequences. The mRNA stabilizing leader sequence of RNA4 from A1MV is included, as well as the terminator and polyadenylation signal sequences of the nopaline synthase gene of Agrobacterium tumefaciens. The entire construct is thereafter subcloned into a binary vector. This vector is introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens which contains a disarmed Ti plasmid. Bacterial cells containing this construct are cocultivated with tissues from tobacco plants, and transformed plant cells are selected by nutrient media containing antibiotics and induced to regenerate into differentiated plants on such media. The resulting plants produce seeds that contain and express the DNA construct.

[0055] The α-amylase enzyme activity of the transgenic seeds may be determined via methods, not critical to the present invention, such as direct enzyme assays using colorimetric techniques or native gel assays.

[0056] The seeds can be used as a source of α-amylase, which can be directly used in industrial processes, such as the preparation of starch syrups. Preferably, the seeds are first ground and the entire (ground) mixture may be used in the process, as may be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art.

[0057] The following examples are provided so as a to give those of ordinary skill in the art a complete disclosure and description of how to make and use the invention and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention. Efforts have been made to ensure accuracy with respect to numbers used (e.g., amounts, temperature, pH, etc.) but some experimental errors and deviation should be accounted for. Unless indicated otherwise,

temperature is in degrees Centrigrade and pressure is at or near atmospheric.

Example 1

Isolation of poly A+ RNA From Aspergillus ficuum.

[0058]   A. ficuum strain NRRL 3135 is grown in a medium containing 22.72 g/l maize flour (amylase treated at pH 7 at 85°C during 15 minutes), 9.36 g/l glucose, 2.9 g/l KNO$_3$, 0.142 g/l KCl, 0.142 g/l MgSO$_4$·7H$_2$O and 56.8 mg/l FeSO$_4$·7H$_2$O. After 6 days the mycelium is harvested.

[0059]   Dry mycelium (0.5 g) is frozen with liquid nitrogen and ground. Subsequently, the material is homogenized with an Ultra turrax (full speed, 1 minute) at 0°C in 3M LiCl, 6M urea and maintained overnight at 4°C as described by Auffray & Rougeon (1980). Total cellular RNA is obtained after centrifugation at 16,000 x g followed by two successive extractions with phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (50:48:2). The RNA is precipitated with ethanol and redissolved in 1 ml 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 0.5% SDS. For poly A+ selection, the total RNA sample is heated for 5 minutes at 65°C, adjusted to 0.5M NaCl and subsequently applied to an oligo(dT)-cellulose column. After several washes with a solution containing 10 mM Tris pH 7.0, 1 mM EDTA and 0.1 mM NaCl, the poly A+ RNA is collected by elution with 10 mM Tris pH 7.0 and 1 mM EDTA.

Example 2

Preparation and Cloning of a cDNA encoding Phytase

[0060]   For the synthesis of the first strand of the cDNA 5 µg of poly A+ RNA, isolated according to Example 1, is dissolved in 16.5 µl H$_2$O and the following components are added: 2.5 µl RNasin (30 U/µl), 10 µl of a buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.6, 6 mM MgCl$_2$ and 40 mM KCl, 2 µl 1M KCl, 5 µl 0.1M DTT, 0.5 µl oligo(dT)$_{12.18}$ (2.5 mg/ml), 5 µl 8 mM dNTP-mix, 5µl BSA (1 mg/ml) and 2.5 µl Moloney MLV reverse transcriptase (200 U/µl). The mixture is incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C and the reaction is stopped by addition of 10 µl 0.2M EDTA and 50 µl H$_2$O. An extraction is performed using 110 µl chloroform and after centrifugation for 5 minutes 5M NH$_4$Ac and 440 µl absolute ethanol (-20°C) are added to the aqueous layer. Precipitation is done in a dry ice/ethanol solution for 30 minutes. After centrifugation (10 minutes at 0°C), the cDNA/mRNA pellet is washed with 70% ice-cold ethanol. The pellet is dried and dissolved in 20 µl of H$_2$O.

[0061]   Isolation of the cDNA encoding phytase is performed with the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in two fragments. The two fragments are combined, using the BamHI site within the gene to create a full-length cDNA. The strategy for the cloning of the phytase cDNA is shown in Figure 1.

[0062]   Sequencing of the phytase gene (van Gorcom et al., 1991) reveals the presence of a BamHI site at approximately 800 basepairs from the initiation codon. The nucleotide sequence around this BamHI site, as well as the nucleotide sequence preceding the start codon and the nucleotide sequence after the stop codon of the phytase gene are used to design oligonucleotides for the PCR.

[0063]   The polymerase chain reaction is performed according to the supplier of Taq-polymerase (Cetus) using 1.5 µl of the solution containing the reaction product of the first strand synthesis and 0.5 µg of each of the oligonucleotides. Amplification is performed in a DNA amplifier of Perkin Elmer/Cetus. After 25 cycles of 2 minutes at 94°C, 2 minutes at 55°C, and 3 minutes at 72°C, the reaction mixture is deproteinized by subsequent phenol and chloroform extractions. The DNA is precipitated, redissolved in a buffer containing 10 mM Tris, pH 7 and 0.1 mM EDTA and subsequently digested with suitable restriction enzymes.

[0064]   For the amplification of the fragment encoding the N-terminal part of the protein, the two following oligonucleotides are used:

        Oligo 1:   5' GGGTAGAATTCAAAAATGGGCGTCTCTGCTGTTCTA 3'

        Oligo 2:   5' AGTGACGAATTCGTGCTGGTGGAGATGGTGTCG 3'

[0065]   The amplified fragment is digested with EcoRI and cloned into the EcoRI site of pTZ18R (purchased from Pharmacia). Restriction site mapping and nucleotide sequencing demonstrate the authenticity of the fragment. The resulting plasmid is named pGB925.

[0066]   For the amplification of the second fragment, the following two oligonucleotides are used:

Oligo 3:   5' GAGCACCAAGCTGAAGGATCC 3'

Oligo 4:   5' AAACTGCAGGCGTTGAGTGTGATTGTTTAAAGGG 3'

[0067]   The amplified fragment is digested with BamHI and PstI and subsequently cloned into pTZ18R, which has been digested with BamHI and PstI. Restriction site mapping and nucleotide sequencing show that the correct fragment is isolated. The resulting plasmid is named pGB926.

[0068]   In order to isolate a full-length cDNA, pGB925 is digested with EcoRI and BamHI and the fragment containing the phytase-encoding DNA is isolated. This fragment is cloned into plasmid pGB926 which has been digested with EcoRI and BamHI, resulting in plasmid pGB927. Plasmid pGB927 contains a full-length cDNA encoding phytase, with an approximate size of 1.8 kbp.

Example 3

Construction of the binary vector pMOG23

[0069]   In this example, the construction of the binary vector pMOG23 (in E. coli K12 DH5a, deposited at the Centraal Bureau voor Schimmel-cultures on January 29, 1990 under accession number CBS 102.90) is described.

[0070]   The binary vector pMOG23 (Figure 2) is a derivative of vector BinI9 (Bevan, M., 1984). To obtain pMOG23, the vector BinI9 is changed in a way not essential for the present invention, using techniques familiar to those skilled in the art of molecular biology.

[0071]   First, the positions of the left border (LB) and the right border (RB) are switched with reference to the neomycine phosphotransferase gene II (NPTII gene). Secondly, the orientation of the NPTII gene is reversed giving transcription in the direction of LB. Finally, the polylinker of BinI9 is replaced by a polylinker with the following restriction enzyme recognition sites: EcoRI, KpnI, SmaI, BamHI, XbaI, SacI, XhoI, and HindIII.

Example 4

Cloning of the phytase cDNA of Aspergillus ficuum in an expression construct for constitutive expression in plants

[0072]   The phytase gene from Aspergillus ficuum is tailored and cloned in an expression construct for constitutive expression downstream of the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus 35S promoter. The expression construct also contains the coding information for a signal peptide sequence of plant origin.

[0073]   The phytase cDNA is cloned into the expression construct as present on plasmid pMOG29 (described under a)). Subsequently the entire construct is introduced into the binary vector pMOG23 and transferred to Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain LBA4404.

a) Construction of expression vector pMOG29

[0074]   The expression construct of ROK1 (Baulcombe et al., 1986) is cloned as an EcoRI/HindIII fragment into pUC18. This construct contains the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (CaMV) 35S promoter on an EcoRI/BamHI fragment and the nopaline synthase (nos) transcription terminator on a BamHI/HindIII fragment. The promoter fragment consists of the sequence from -800 to +1 of the CaMV 35S promoter. Position +1, which is included, is the transcription initiation site (Guilley et al., 1982). The sequence upstream of the NcoI site at position -512 is deleted and this site is changed into an EcoRI site. This is done by cutting the expression construct present in pUC18 with NcoI, filling in the single-stranded ends with Klenow polymerase and ligation of an EcoRI linker. The resulting plasmid is cut with EcoRI, resulting in the deletion of the EcoRI fragment carrying the sequences of the 35S promoter upstream of the original NcoI site. The BamHI/HindIII fragment, containing the nos terminator is replaced by a synthetic DNA fragment (oligonucleotide duplex A, Figure 4) containing the leader sequence of RNA4 of Alfalfa Mosaic Virus (AlMV) (Brederode et al., 1980). This is done by cleavage with BamHI, followed by cleavage with HindIII and ligation of the synthetic DNA fragment. The BamHI site and three upstream nucleotides are deleted by site-directed mutagenesis. In the resulting plasmid, the BamHI/HindIII fragment containing the nos terminator sequence is reintroduced. The gene encoding β-glucuronidase (originating from plasmid pRAJ 275; Jefferson, 1987) was ligated in as an NcoI/BamHI fragment, resulting in plasmid pMOG14. From the literature it is known that duplication of the sequence between -343 and -90 increases the activity of the 35S promoter (Kay et al., 1987). To obtain a promoter fragment with a double, so-called enhancer sequence, the following steps, known to those skilled in the art, are carried out. From plasmid pMOG14, the enhancer

fragment is isolated on an AccI/EcoRI fragment and subsequently blunt-ended with Klenow polymerase. The obtained fragment is introduced in pMOG14 cut with EcoRI and blunt-ended, in such a way that the border between the blunt-ended EcoRI and AccI sites generate a new EcoRI site. The resulting plasmid (pMOG18) contains the 35S promoter with a double enhancer sequence, the leader sequence of RNA4 from AIMV and the nos terminator in an expression construct still present on an EcoRI/HindIII fragment. Finally, the NcoI/BamHI fragment encoding β-glucuronidase is replaced with the synthetic DNA fragment B (Figure 4), derived from the PROB12 cDNA (Cornelissen et al., 1986). This fragment B encodes the PR-protein PR-S signal peptide sequence from tobacco Samsun NN. An SphI site is created in the signal peptide encoding DNA sequence by changing one nucleotide. This change does not alter the amino acid sequence of the encoded PR-S signal peptide. The resulting plasmid is called pMOG29 (Figure 8).

b) Cloning of the phytase gene from Aspergillus ficuum in the binary vector

[0075] Oligonucleotide duplex C (Figure 4) is cloned into plasmid pMOG29, digested with SphI and BamHI, resulting in plasmid pMOG407. The oligonucleotide duplex contains the coding information for the final 2 amino acids of the signal peptide of PR-S, followed by the first 6 amino acids of mature phytase.

[0076] The plasmid pGB927, which contains the full length phytase cDNA, is digested with XhoI (partially) and PstI. The XhoI/PstI fragment comprising the DNA sequences encoding mature phytase from amino acid 6 onward is cloned into plasmid pMOG407 linearized with XhoI and PstI, resulting in plasmid pMOG417. The entire construct, containing the chimaeric phytase gene, is inserted as an EcoRI/HindIII fragment into the binary vector pMOG23 linearized with EcoRI and HindIII. The resulting binary plasmid pMOG413 is mobilized, in a triparental mating with the E. coli K-12 strain RK2013 (containing plasmid pRK2013) (Ditta et al., 1980), into Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain LBA4404 that contains a plasmid with the virulence genes necessary for T-DNA transfer to the plant.

Example 5

Transient expression of a chimaeric phytase gene in tobacco protoplasts

[0077] Protoplasts of tobacco are transformed with plasmid DNA carrying the chimaeric phytase gene under regulation of the constitutive CaMV 35S promoter. After 72 hours treated protoplasts are assayed for transient expression of the introduced phytase gene using the phytase activity assay.

[0078] Protoplasts are prepared from axenically grown 1-2 months old tobacco plants (Nicotiana tabacum SR1). The entire procedure is described by Rodenburg et al. (1989). For transformation a number of 5.10^5 protoplasts is electroporated with 40 μg DNA of plasmid pMOG417). After electroporation protoplasts are resuspended in 3 ml of K3G medium. For the phytase activity assay protoplasts are pelleted and the 3 ml of supernatant is dialyzed overnight against an excess of water. The dialysate is freeze-dried and resuspended in 300 μl 25 mM sodium-acetate pH 5.5. The assay is then carried out as described in detail in Example 10, with the only exception that instead of the 250 mM Glycine HCl buffer pH 2.5, a 25 mM sodium acetate buffer pH 5.5. is used.

[0079] In these experiments, one phytase unit is defined as 1 μM phosphate released from 1.5 mM sodium phytate solution per minute at 37°C at pH 5.5.

[0080] In untreated protoplasts no detectable activity is found. Protoplasts electroporated with plasmid pMOG417 show an activity of 0.26 PTU (Phytase units, see Example 10) per mg protein in the supernatant.

Example 6

Stable expression of a chimaeric phytase gene in tobacco plants under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter

[0081] Tobacco is transformed by cocultivation of plant tissue with Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain LBA4404 containing the binary vector pMOG413 with the chimaeric phytase gene under regulation of the CaMV 35S promoter. Transformation is carried out using cocultivation of tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum SRI) leaf discs according to Horsch et al. (1985). Transgenic plants are regenerated from shoots that grow on selection medium (100 mg/l) kanamycin), rooted and transferred to soil. Young plants are assayed for NPTII-activity (kanamycin resistance), grown to maturity and allowed to self-pollenate and set seed.

[0082] To determine the phytase activity found in the transgenic seeds, about 50 mg is taken and homogenized with a pestle in an ice-cold mortar in 1 ml 25 mM sodium-acetate buffer pH 5.5. After centrifugation, the supernatant is assayed as described for the transient assays. In 32 independently transformed tobacco plants, a maximum phytase expression level of 0.4% of the total soluble seed protein was observed. No phytase activity could be detected in untransformed plants.

[0083] Two transgenic plant lines, 413.25 and 413.32, were selected on the basis of their high expression levels of

phytase (approximately 0.4%) in seeds.

Example 7

5   Cloning of the phytase cDNA of Aspergillus ficuum in a seed-specific expression construct.

[0084]   An expression construct is constructed in such a way that seed-specific expression is obtained, using sequences of the Brassica napus 12S storage protein gene cruciferin (cruA; Ryan et al., 1989). These sequences may be replaced by those from similar seed-specific genes to achieve the same goal as is the objective of this invention.

10   [0085]   The phytase cDNA is cloned into the expression construct. Finally, the entire construct is introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens, which is used for transformation. In case of any other protein of interest cloning of the gene or cDNA is done in essentially the same way as described here for the phytase cDNA.
[0086]   For all E. coli transformations in this example, E. coli K-12 strain DH5a is used.

15   a) Construction of the expression construct

[0087]   For the construction of the expression construct for seed-specific expression, the promoter and terminator sequences from the cruciferin A (cruA) gene of Brassica napus cv. Jet Neuf are synthesized using PCR technology with isolated genomic DNA (Mettler, I.J., 1987) as a template. This gene shows seed-specific expression and its coding
20   and flanking sequences have been determined (Ryan et al., 1989).
[0088]   Two sets of oligonucleotides are synthesized. One to allow amplification of the cruA 5' flanking region and part of the signal peptide encoding sequence as an EcoRI/NcoI fragment:

25   5' GTTCGGAATTCGGGTTCCGG 3' and 5' AACTGTTGAGCTGTAGAGCC 3'.

The other for amplification of the 3' flanking sequence as a BglII/HindIII fragment:

30   5' CTTAAGATCTTACCCAGTGA 3' and 5' CGGAGAAGCTTGCATCTCGT 3'.

[0089]   The oligo's are designed to contain suitable restriction sites at their termini to allow direct assembly of the expression construct after digestion of the fragments with the restriction enzymes.
35   [0090]   The 5' fragment of the cruA gene, that includes 54 nucleotides of the sequence encoding the signal peptide is cloned into vector pMOG445 (Oligonucleotide duplex E (Figure 4) cloned into vector pUC18, linearized with SstI and EcoRI), cut with EcoRI and NcoI, resulting in vector pMOG424. The synthetic oligonucleotide duplex D (Figure 4), comprising the final 5 coding triplets for the signal sequence of Brassica napus cruciferin, the sequence encoding amino acids 1-6 of mature phytase and a multiple cloning site, is cloned in vector pMOG424 cut with NcoI and HindIII.
40   The resulting vector is called pMOG425. The 3' cruA PCR fragment is cloned as a BglII/HindIII fragment into pMOG425 digested with BglII and HindIII, resulting in pMOG426.

b) Cloning of the phytase gene from Aspergillus ficuum in the binary vector

45   [0091]   Plasmid pGB927, which contains the full-length coding sequence for Aspergillus ficuum phytase, is digested with XhoI (partially) and with PstI. The XhoI/PstI fragment comprising the DNA sequences encoding mature phytase from amino acid 6 onward is cloned in vector pMOG426, cut with XhoI and PstI. From the resulting vector pMOG428, the entire construct, containing the chimeric phytase gene, is inserted as an EcoRI/HindIII fragment in the binary vector pMOG23 linearized with EcoRI and HindIII. The resulting binary vector pMOG429 (Figure 5) is mobilized, in a triparental
50   mating with the E. coli K-12 strain RK2013 (containing plasmid pRK2013) (Ditta et al., supra), into Agrobacterium strain LBA4404 (Hoekema et al., 1983, supra) which contains a plasmid with the virulence genes necessary for T-DNA tranfer to the plant.

Example 8

55

Stable seed-specific expression of phytase in tobacco seeds under the control of a cruciferin promoter

[0092]   Agrobacterium strain LBA4404, containing the binary vector pMOG429 with the phytase cDNA under the

control of the cruciferin promoter, is used for transformation experiments. Transformation of tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum SR1) is carried out using co-cultivation of leaf discs according to the procedure of Horsch et al. (1985). Transgenic plants are regenerated from shoots that grow on selection medium (100 mg/l kanamycin). Young plants are assayed for NPTII-activity (kanamycin resistance), grown to maturity and allowed to self-pollenate and set seed. Seeds from individual transformants are pooled and part of the seed sample is assayed for the presence of phytase. From clones with the highest expression levels, compared to untransformed control seeds, the remaining seeds are germinated on kanamycin (200 mg/L) (hence also transgenic for phytase) and selected and used for mass propagation of plants capable of producing the highest amounts of phytase in their seeds. These can then be used, e.g. for digestion experiments.

[0093] To determine the phytase activity found in the transgenic seeds, about 50 mg seed is taken and homogenized with a pestle in an ice-cold mortar in 1 ml 25 mM sodium-acetate buffer pH 5.5. After centrifugation, the supernatant is assayed as described for the transient assays. In 55 independently transformed tobacco plants, a maximum phytase expression level of 0.15% of the total soluble seed protein was observed. Phytase activity was not detected in stems, roots and leaves of the transgenic plants. No phytase activity could be detected in untransformed plants.

Example 9

Transformation of rapeseed

[0094] In this example, the transformation of rapeseed by co-cultivation of plant tissue with Agrobacterium tumefaciens, containing a binary vector with the chimeric phytase gene is described. Transgenic plants may be selected on antibiotic resistance. The transgenic plants may be assayed for phytase activity. High expressors may be analyzed more thoroughly and used in further experiments.

[0095] The same chimeric phytase construct in a binary vector (pMOG429) is mobilized into Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain LBA4404, in a like manner as described in Example 7. This strain may be used to transform rapeseed (Brassica napus cv. Westar). To this aim, surface-sterilized stem segments taken from 5 to 6 week-old plants, just before flowering, are preconditioned for 24 h on MS medium (Fry et al., 1987) with 1 mg/l BAP and then co-cultivated for 48 h with Agrobacterium on fresh plates with the same medium. Transgenic plantlets may be regenerated from shoots that grow on selection medium (500 mg/l carbenicilline, 40 mg/l paromomycin) and further analyzed as described in example 8 for tobacco.

Example 10

Phytase activity assay

[0096] A total of 25 mg of seeds from Nicotiana tabacum plant line 413.25 which in total contain approximately 0.25 PTU were ground. (PTU = Phytase units. One unit of phytase activity is defined as that amount of enzyme which liberates inorganic phosphorus from 1.5 mM sodium phytate at the rate of 1 μmol/min at 37°C and at pH 2.5).

[0097] The ground seed is incubated in a total volume of 50 ml of a 250 mM glycine/HCl buffer pH 2.5 containing 0.86 g sodium phytate·11 H_2O. Although Aspergillus phytase expresses a pH optimum at 2.5 as well as at 5.5, the lower pH is chosen to exclude plant phytase activity.

[0098] The resulting mixture is incubated for 15 and 60 minutes at 37°C. The reaction is stopped by the addition of 5 ml from the incubate into 5 ml of 10% TCA (trichloroacetic acid). Thereafter, 10 ml of indicator reagent (3.66 g $FeSO_2·7H_2O$ in 50 ml of ammonium molybdate solution (2.5 g $(NH_4)_6Mo_7O_{24}·4H_2O$ and 8 ml conc. H_2SO_4, diluted up to 250 ml with demi water)) is added to the stopped enzyme solution. The intensity of the blue color is measured spectrophotometrically at 700 nm.

[0099] The inorganic phosphate content present at T = 0 serves as a blank.

[0100] The measurements are indicative of the quantity of phosphate released in relation to a calibration curve of phosphate in the range of 0-1 mM.

Example 11

Incubation of ground Nicotiana tabacum seeds with feedstuffs

[0101] In a typical experiment, 0.25 g of solvent extracted soybean meal is incubated with 25 mg of ground Nicotiana tabacum seeds (plant line 413.25) containing approximately 0.25 PTU as described above, except for the addition of sodium phytate. In this case, the added incubation agent consists of a mixture of 410 ml buffer and 90 ml of demi water.

[0102] The liberation of phosphate from phytate in solvent extracted soybean meal is depicted in Figure 6. Without

- added ground seeds, no activity is observed.

[0103] In a virtually identical experiment, similar results are obtained using maize gluten feed as a substrate. Results are shown in Figure 6.

[0104] No activity is observed in the absence of ground seeds or when ground seeds are added which do not contain phytase activity.

Example 12

In vitro testing of transgenic seeds containing phytase under conditions simulating the digestive tract of poultry

[0105] To assess the effectivity of phytase produced in transgenic tobacco seeds, the activity of phytase from Aspergillus is determined in a model simulating the conditions found in the digestive tract in poultry.

[0106] A standard poultry feed sample is first incubated at 1 g/15 ml demi water for 60 minutes at 39°C to simulate the conditions in the crop of the animals. Subsequently, 5 ml of a pepsin solution (Merck: 5.28 g/l, pH 3.0 - adjusted with HCl) is added, the pH adjusted with HCl to pH 3.0, and the incubation is continued for a further 90 minutes at the same temperature to simulate the conditions in the stomach.

[0107] During the incubation period, samples were taken in order to determine the amount of phosphate released from the phytate present in the feed.

[0108] The action of fungal phytase is apparent from Figure 10. Increasing the phytase dosage from 250 to 1000 PTU/kg feed results in an increased release of phosphate from the feed sample.

[0109] When a sample of transgenic tobacco seed (lines 413.25 or 413.32; after grinding in a mortar) is added in place of the fungal phytase, a similar increased phosphate release is observed (Figure 11). Control tobacco seed, which did not contain phytase, was also tested. No phosphate release was observed as compared to the blank control.

[0110] Comparison of the results with 50 g transgenic tobacco seed/kg feed with those obtained with 500 and 750 PTU/kg feed indicates that 1 g tobacco seed equals approximately 12 PTU in this in vitro poultry digestion model.

Example 13

Animal testing

[0111] Trials are carried out with broilers to show the efficacy of phytase expressed in plant seeds, as well as the absence of any negative effect of seeds from tobacco on zootechnical results.

[0112] Phytase-expressing tobacco seeds and control seed are harvested. Seeds were ground in 100 gram portions with a sieve (Retch-mill ZM1) having pores of 500 μm, taking care to keep the seeds cooled.

[0113] One day old male broiler chicks (Hybro) are housed in two tier battery cages (0.45 m^2). The ambient temperature is 32°C during the first two days and is decreased by 4°C in the first week. Every following week, the temperature is decreased by 2°C. Broilers are reared in a one hour light and three hours dark regime.

[0114] The birds are vaccinated against New Castle Disease at one day of age using Clone 30 vaccine. During the experiments, the broilers are fed the experimental diets all mash and ad libitum. Growth and feed/gain ratios are measured during the experimental periods. Apparent availability of total phosphorus is measured in a three day period, during which feed consumption is measured as dry matter intake and excreta are collected quantitatively.

[0115] Apparent availability of phosphorus is defined as the difference between intake of phosphorus and excretion of phosphorus with the excreta.

[0116] The following control diets without addition of phytase are used:

Diets	Ca (%)	total P (%)	phytate P (%)
1	0.60	0.45	0.30
2	0.75	0.60	0.30
3	0.90	0.75	0.30

[0117] No graded feed phosphate is added to diet 1 (basal diet). Calcium and phosphorus from a mixture of anhydrous dicalcium phosphate and monoammonium phosphate (ratio 5:1) are supplemented to diets 2 and 3. All experimental diets are obtained by additions to the basal diet (see Table 1).

[0118] Experimental diet 4 contains microbial phytase at a concentration of 400 PTU/kg feed, prepared as described by Van Gorcom et al. (1991).

[0119] Experimental diet 5 is like diet 4 but ground seeds of non-transgenic tobacco are added to the feed mixture to achieve a final ratio of 3 kg/90 kg feed.

[0120] Experimental diet 6 is also like diet 4 but 3 kg ground seeds of transgenic tobacco (line 413.25) are added to a mixture of 90 kg feed to obtain a final concentration of 400 PTU/kg feed.

[0121] The experiment is carried out with 176 broilers in 16 battery cages (11 per battery cage) until the age of 24 days. The treatments (diets) are repeated twice and are assigned randomly to the cages within each tier.

[0122] The availability of phosphorus is measured from 21-24 days of age.

[0123] The results with regard to phosphorous availability and growth of the animals supplied with diets 4, 5 and 6 each show the positive effect of the addition of phytase (Table 2). A comparison of diets 4, 5 and 6 also demonstrates that the inclusion of tobacco seeds in feed is compatible with the action of microbial phytase in the gastro-intestinal tract of farm animals such as broilers and shows no negative effect on the zootechnical results.

Table 1

Composition of Basal Diet in Experiments With Broilers	
Ingredients	Contents (g/kg)
Yellow maize	280.0
Sorghum (low tannin)	200.0
Sunflower seed meal (solv. extr.)	80.0
Soya bean meal (solvent extr., 48.8% protein)	350.0
Soya bean oil	58.5
Vitamins*	5.0
Minerals*	15.0
Limestone	1.0
Synth. methionine	1.0
Cr_2O_3	0.5
	1001.0
ME (MJ/kg)	13.1
Lysine	12.9
Methionine + cystine	9.1
Calcium	6.0 (6.0 - 6.6)**
Total phosphorus	4.5 (4.7 - 4.7)**
Organic phytic phosporus	3.0 (3.1 - 3.1)**

* Amount supplied per kg diet: 12000 IU vitamin A; 2000 IU vitamin D_3; 5 IU vitamin E; 1.5 mg vitamin K_3; 1 mg thiamine; 5 mg riboflavin; 1 mg pyridoxine; 30 mg nicotinic acid, 7.5 mg D-pantothenic acid; 0.015 mg vitamin B_{12}; 0.5 mg folic acid; 350 mg choline chloride; 75 mg ethoxyquin; 9.5 g $CaCO_3$; 2.5 g NaCl; 0.25 g $FeSO_4$; 0.24 g $MnSO_4$; 45 mg $CuSO_4$; 60 mg $ZnSO_4$; 105 mg KI mixture.

** ( ) Analyzed for experiments 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 2

The Effect of Phytase on the Apparent

Availability of Total P and Ca, the P Content in

Manure and the Performance of Broilers

Diets	Ca/P (g/kg)	Added phytase (units/kg)	Availability 21-24 d P	Availability 21-24 d Ca	Amount of P in manure (g) per kg dm feed intake	Growth 0-24 d (g)
1	6/4.5	0	49.8	47.2	2.7	338
2	7.5/6	0	45.6	48.9	3.8	592
3	9/7.5	0	44.6	46.9	4.9	683
4	as 1	400	60.5	58.6	2.1	620
5	as 1	0	48.5	48.0	2.7	340
6	as 1	400	60.2	59.3	2.1	615

Example 14

Cloning of the α-amylase gene of Bacillus licheniformis in an expression cassette for constitutive expression

[0124] In this example, the a-amylase gene from Bacillus licheniformis is tailored and cloned in an expression cassette for constitutive expression which also contains the coding information for a signal peptide sequence of plant origin. As a final step, the entire construct is cloned in a binary vector, transferred to Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain LBA4404, which is used to transform the plant of interest. Any other gene or cDNA may be cloned in a similar way as is described here for the a-amylase gene.

[0125] All transformations in this example are done in E. coli K-12 strain DH5-a.

a) Tailoring of the α-amylase gene of Bacillus licheniformis

[0126] The α-amylase gene from Bacillus licheniformis (Figure 7), present in the Bacillus vector pPROM54 (deposited at the Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelcultures on November 5, 1985, under accession number CBS 696.85), is digested with XbaI and BclI. The XbaI/BclI fragment is cloned in plasmid pUC18 linearized with XbaI and BamHI, resulting in plasmid pMOG318. A SalI/BamHI fragment is synthesized using PCR technology with pMOG318 as a template creating the BamHI site by use of a mismatch primer (indicated in Figure 7). The SalI/BamHI PCR fragment is cloned in plasmid pIC-19R (Marsh et al., 1984) digested with SalI and BamHI, resulting in plasmid pMOG319. The SalI fragment, which contains the 5'end of the a-amylase gene, from pMOG318 (using the SalI site present in pUC18) is cloned in pMOG319 linearized with SalI. This results in plasmid pMOG320 that contains the entire a-amylase gene.

b) Construction of vector pMOG29

[0127] Vector pMOG29 was constructed as described in Example 4(a).

c) Cloning of the α-amylase gene from Bacillus licheniformis in the binary vector

[0128] Plasmid pMOG320 is digested with HgaI and BamHI. The HgaI/BamHI fragment, which encodes mature a-amylase from amino acid 9 onward, is cloned in a three-way ligation with the synthetic oligonucleotide duplex F (Figure 4) into pMOG29 linearized with SphI and BamHI, resulting in plasmid pMOG321. The oligonucleotide duplex has the coding information for the final 2 amino acids of the signal peptide of PR-S and for the first 9 amino acids of mature a-amylase. The entire construct, containing the chimeric α-amylase gene, is inserted as an EcoRI/HindIII into the binary vector pMOG23 linearized with EcoRI and HindIII. The resulting binary plasmid pMOG227 (Figure 9) is mobilized, in a triparental mating with the E. coli K-12 strain RK2013 (containing plasmid pRK2013) (Ditta et al., 1980), into Agrobacterium strain LBA4404 that contains a plasmid with the virulence genes necessary for T-DNA tranfer to the plant.

Example 15

Stable expression of Bacillus licheniformis α-amylase in tobacco

[0129] In this example tobacco is transformed by cocultivation of plant tissue with Agrobacterium tumefaciens, containing a binary vector with the chimeric a-amylase gene. Transgenic plants are selected on antibiotic resistance. The seeds of the transgenic plants are assayed for α-amylase activity. High expressors are analyzed more thoroughly and used in further experiments.

[0130] Agrobacterium strain LBA4404 (pMOG227) is used for transformation experiments. Transformation of tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum SR1) is carried out using cocultivation of leaf discs according to the procedure of Horsch et al., (1985). Transgenic plants are regenerated from shoots that grow on selection medium (100 mg/l kanamycin). Young plants are assayed for NPTII-activity, grown to maturity and allowed to self-pollenate and set seed. Seeds from individual transformants are pooled and part of the seed sample is assayed for the presence of a-amylase. From clones with the highest expression levels, compared to untransformed control seeds, the remaining seeds are germinated on kanamycin (200 mg/L) (hence also transgenic for a-amylase) and selected and used for mass propagation of plants capable of producing seeds containing the highest amounts of α-amylase. A maximun α-amylase expression level of 0.4% of the total soluble seed protein was observed. These seeds can then be used, e.g. for digestion experiments.

Example 16

Application of α-amylase formulated in seeds for the liquefaction of starch

5 **[0131]** Bacillus licheniformis α-amylase, expressed in tobacco seed, was applied in the liquefaction of starch as follows: 100 grams of both α-amylase-expressing and control tobacco seeds are harvested. Seeds were ground with a sieve (Retch-mill ZM1) having pores of 250 μm, taking care to keep the seeds cooled. To determine their α-amylase content, the milled seeds were extracted with 10 volumes of 0.5 M glycine buffer pH 9.0 with 10 mM $CaCl_2$ during 30 min at 0°C. The supernatant was used for a-amylase determination by the Phadebas method (Pharmacia Diagnostics).
10 The units are referred to as TAU (thermostable α-amylase units).

[0132] Liquefaction tests were carried out as follows: starch slurry (composition: 3.3 kg corn or potato starch, D.S. (Dry Substance) 88% (2.904 kg starch); 5.45 1 H_2O; D.S. of slurry becomes 33%; the pH was corrected to 6.5 with 1 N sulfuronic acid or 1 N NaOH. Either milled seeds or microbial a-amylase were added to an amount equivalent to 4.4 T.A.U./g D.S.) is heated to 100°C as rapidly as possible and this temperature is maintained for 10 minutes. The slurry
15 is then brought to 95°C and maintained at that temperature for 2 hours. Afterwards, the samples were acidified with H_2SO_4 to obtain pH 3.5 and placed in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes in order to stop enzymatic activity before the DE (dextrose equivalents) and hydrolysis pattern were determined by HPLC. A column of BIORAD HPX-42A was used for HPLC analysis with demineralized water as eluent.

[0133] The oligosaccharide pattern obtained from the hydrolysis of potato and corn starch using A) transformed plant
20 seeds; B) Maxamyl[R] (Bacillus licheniformis α-amylase obtained from Gist-brocades N.V., Delft, The Netherlands); and C) Dexlo[R]CL (Bacillus amyloliquefaciens α-amylase from Gist-brocades) were compared (Figures 12 and 13). The oligosaccharide pattern obtained from transformed plant seeds and Maxamyl[R] are identical, yet both differ from that obtained from Dexlo[R], confirming that Bacillus licheniformis α-amylase is produced in plant seeds. The DE values obtained with the plant seeds (Table 3) are in the commercially acceptable range (DE ≥ 12, preferably DE ≥ 16) (Reilly,
25 1985).

Table 3

Dextrose equivalent (DE) values obtained from hydrolysis of corn and potato starch		
	Potato Starch DE	Corn Starch DE
Maxamyl[R] WL7000	18	16
Transformed tobacco seeds	16	13
Non-transformed tobacco seeds	0	0
Dexlo[R] CL	15	18

[0134] While the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without parting from the true spirit and scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular
40 situation, material, plant, seed, process, process step or steps to the object, spirit and scope of the invention. All such modifications are intended to be within the scope of the claims appended hereto.

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Claims

1. Method for use of transgenic seed containing an enzyme of interest comprising the steps of:

   a) transforming a plant with an expression construct containing a DNA sequence encoding the enzyme of interest wherein the enzyme is expressed in the seeds of the transgenic plant;

   b) harvesting said seeds; and

   c) using the enzyme in a catalytic reaction by adding the seeds to food or feedstuffs or by adding the seeds in an industrial process, said process being selected from the group consisting of soy processing, wet milling, starch liquefaction, processes in the paper industry, processes in food and beverage industry and processes in baking industry.

2. Method according to claim 1 wherein the seeds which are added to food or feedstuffs contain an enzyme which improves the nutritional intake of an animal.

3. Method according to claim 1 wherein the processes in food and beverage industry are fermentation or brewery processes.

4. Method according to claim 1-3 wherein the seed are ground prior to adding to food or feedstuffs or to said industrial process.

5. Method according to claim 1-3 wherein the seeds are ground after adding to food or feedstuffs or to said industrial process.

6. Method according to any of claims 1-5 wherein the enzyme is an enzyme heterologous to a non-transgenic form of the plant.

7. Method according to any of claims 1-6 wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a hydrolase, a lyase and an isomerase.

8. Method according to claim 7 wherein the enzyme is phytase.

9. Method according to claim 7 wherein the enzyme is amylase.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Verwendung von transgenen Samen, die ein interessierendes Enzym enthalten, umfassend die Schritte:

   a) Transformieren einer Pflanze mit einem Expressionskonstrukt, das eine DNA-Sequenz enthält, die das interessierende Enzym codiert, worin das Enzym in den Samen der transgenen Pflanze exprimiert wird,

b) Ernten der besagten Samen; und

c) Verwenden des Enzyms in einer katalytischen Reaktion, indem die Samen zu Lebensmitteln oder Futtermitteln zugegeben werden oder indem die Samen in einem industriellen Verfahren zugegeben werden, wobei das besagte Verfahren aus der Gruppe ausgewählt ist, die aus der Sojaverarbeitung, dem Feuchtmahlen, der Stärkeverflüssigung, den Verfahren in der Papierindustrie, den Verfahren in der Lebensmittel- und Getränkeindustrie und den Verfahren in der Backindustrie besteht.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, worin die Samen, die zu Lebensmitteln oder Futtermitteln zugegeben werden, ein Enzym enthalten, das die Nahrungsaufnahme eines Tieres verbessert.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, worin die Verfahren in der Lebensmittel- und Getränkeindustrie Gär- oder Brauverfahren sind.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1-3, worin die Samen vor der Zugabe zu Lebensmitteln oder Futtermitteln oder zu dem besagten industriellen Verfahren gemahlen werden.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1-3, worin die Samen nach der Zugabe zu Lebensmitteln oder Futtermitteln oder zu dem besagten industriellen Verfahren gemahlen werden.

6. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1-5, worin das Enzym ein zu einer nicht transformierten Form der Pflanze heterologes Enzym ist.

7. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1-6, worin das Enzym aus einer Gruppe ausgewählt ist, die aus einer Hydrolase, einer Lyase und einer Isomerase besteht.

8. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, worin das Enzym eine Phytase ist.

9. Verfahren nach Anspruch 7, worin das Enzym eine Amylase ist.

Revendications

1. Procédé d'utilisation de graines transgéniques contenant une enzyme d'intérêt, comprenant les étapes de :

a) transformation d'une plante avec une construction d'expression contenant une séquence d'ADN codant l'enzyme d'intérêt où l'enzyme est exprimée dans les graines de la plante transgénique ;

b) récolte desdites graines ; et

c) utilisation de l'enzyme dans une réaction catalytique par addition des graines à un aliment ou des aliments pour animaux ou par addition des graines dans un procédé industriel, ledit procédé étant choisi dans le groupe consistant en le traitement du soja, le broyage humide, la liquéfaction de l'amidon, les procédés dans l'industrie papetière, les procédés dans l'industrie alimentaire et des boissons et les procédés dans l'industrie de la cuisson.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, où les graines qui sont ajoutées à un aliment ou des aliments pour animaux contiennent une enzyme qui améliore l'absorption nutritionnelle d'un animal.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1, où les procédés dans l'industrie alimentaire et des boissons sont des procédés de fermentation ou de brasserie.

4. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 3, où les graines sont broyées avant d'être ajoutées à l'aliment ou aux aliments pour animaux ou audit procédé industriel.

5. Procédé selon les revendications 1 à 3, où les graines sont broyées après avoir été ajoutées à l'aliment ou aux aliments pour animaux ou audit procédé industriel.

6. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, où l'enzyme est une enzyme hétérologue pour une forme non transgénique de la plante.

7. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, où l'enzyme est choisie dans le groupe consistant en une hydrolase, une lyase et une isomérase.

8. Procédé selon la revendication 7, où l'enzyme est une phytase.

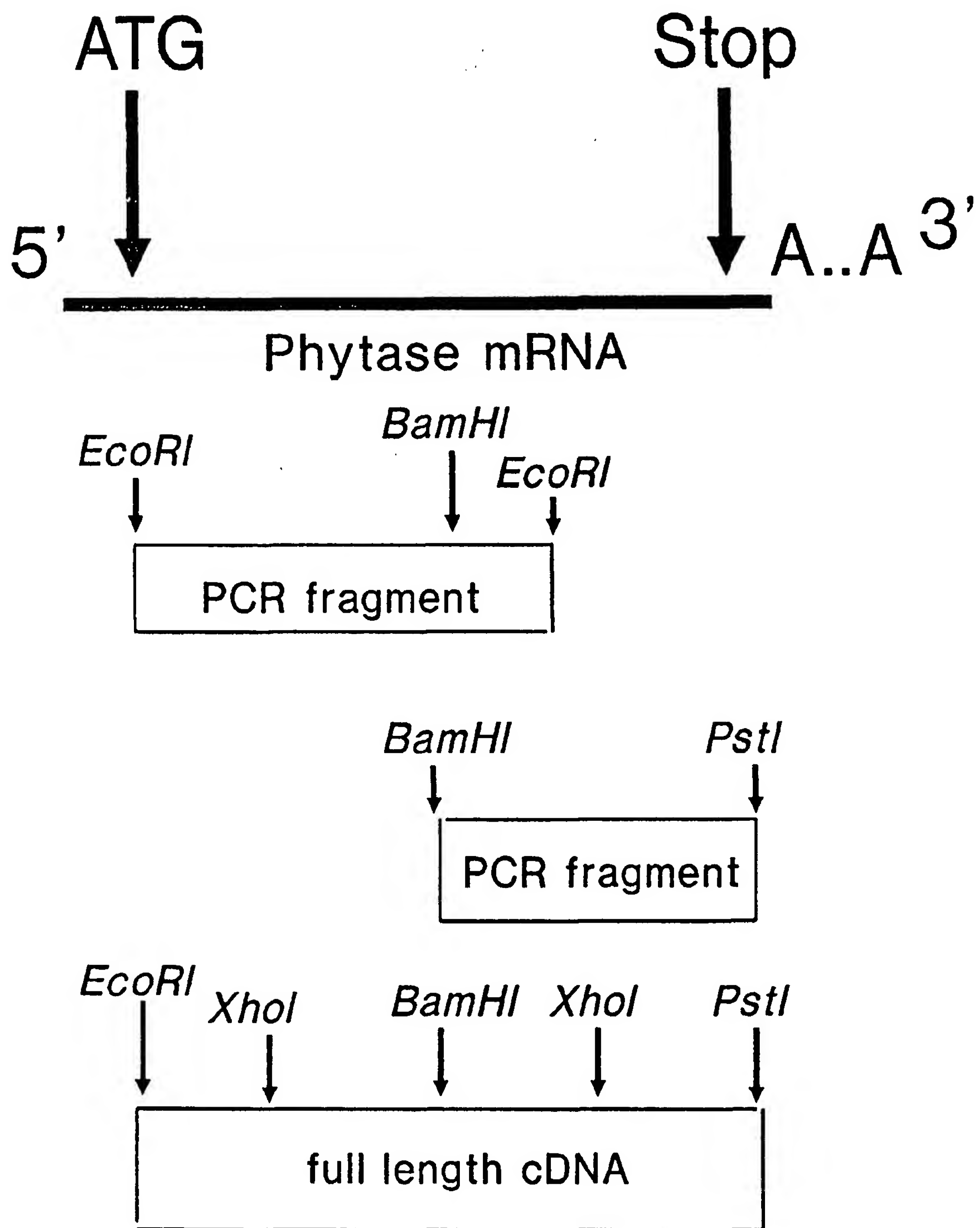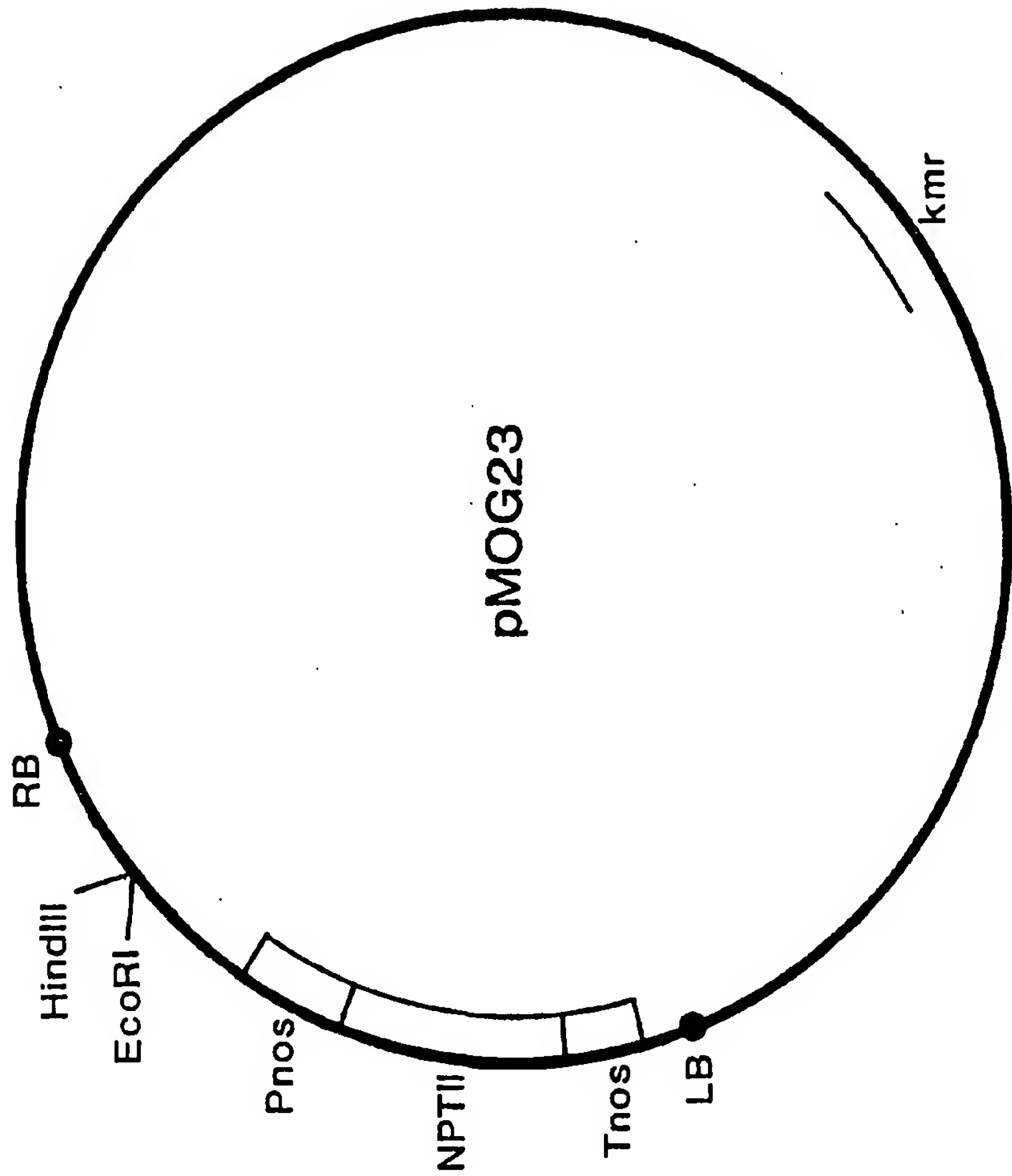9. Procédé selon la revendication 7, où l'enzyme est une amylase.

Figure 1

pMOG23

Polylinker sequence:

Eco RI	Kpn I	Sma I	Bam HI	Xba I	Hind III

5' GGAATTCTGGTACCTCCCGGGAGGATCCATCTAGAGCTCGAGTAAGCTTC 3'

Sac I

figure 2

FIGURE 3 (Sheet 1 of 3)

```
                                                                    EcoRI
                                                                    ‾‾‾‾‾
TATTTACGTT  CGGTCGGATA  ACGGACGGGT  TTTCAGTTCG  GGTTCGGTTC  GGATTTCGGG
TTCCGGATTT  ATATGGCCCT  AGCCTAAATT  CGAGTGTGAC  CGTTAATCCG  TTATACTACG
ATCTAATCAA  AACATGTCTA  GATCAAAATT  GCAATCTTAT  TGCATATATT  TTTGTCTAAC
AATATTACTA  GAAATCTTTG  TTTATTACCA  ACATTAGTAA  AACTATATCT  TAACCAAAGT
TGCAGGAGCA  GTTCGTTTCA  AACGTAATTG  CTATAGTGAT  GTTATTGTAA  ATTTGTTATA
CTGATCAAAT  GTAAAGAATA  ATACAATTTT  ATATATATCT  GACAAACAAA  TCAGTATATA
TATACAAGAA  ATATATATTT  TGTCCTATTA  CATATGCCTA  TCTCAAAGTT  GATGTGTAAA
GACATGCAGT  TCAATAAGCC  ATGCAAATTG  AGATGTGTCA  AACTCCCTTC  GTTAATATGT
GTTTTCTTAC  AATGTGAAGC  CAAATTAAAT  TTTCAGAAGA  AGACATAAAG  ATAGCAACTC
AAATGAAGTG  TAGATTGTAC  ATAGTCGACT  CTATATACCT  GGTTCTTATC  TCATTCAATT
TATCCTCAAA  AAAATTTATC  AACATCTATA  CAAATAAGTT  CACTATAAAT  AGCTTCATCT

                                                *
AACTCAGCTG  TAAGACCAGA  AAAACCACAA  CAACTAAGTA  AAGAGAAAAT  GGCTCGGCTC
                                                            NcoI
                                                            ‾‾‾‾
TCATCTCTTC  TCTCTTTTTC  CTTAGCACTT  TTGACTTTTC  TCCATGGCTC  TACAGCTCAA
CAGTTTCCAA  ACGAGTGTCA  GCTAGACCAG  CTCAATGCAC  TGGAGCCGTC  ACACGTACTT
AAGGCTGAGG  CTGGTCGCAT  CGAGGTGTGG  GACCACCACG  CTCCTCAGCT  ACGTTGCTCT
GGTGTCTCCT  TTGTACGTTA  CATCATCGAG  TCTAAGGGTC  TCTACTTGCC  CTCTTTCTTT
AGCACCGCGA  GGCTCTCCTT  CGTGGCTAAA  GGTACGTGAA  TCTGATTTTG  ATACTATATG
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FIGURE 3 (Sheet 2 of 3)

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AGTATCGAGA  TTCAAATTCG  TGATCTTTAA  GGTTCAGTCT  TTTGAGAAAA  GTGTTGTAGT
AAGTATATCA  CTATACACGT  GCTAAGGTTT  TGATCAAATA  CATTATAATA  TTTTTTTGTT
TAATTTATAA  CCTAAATATA  TGGTCGATGT  TCACAGAACT  GCGCACTAAA  TTTTTTTTTT
TTGGTTTGTT  ACATTATAGG  AGAAGGTCTT  ATGGGGAGAG  TGGTCCTGTG  CGCCGAGACA
TTCCAGGACT  CATCAGTGTT  TCAACCAAGC  GGTGGTAGCC  CCTTCGGAGA  AGGTCAGGGC
CAAGGACAAC  AAGGTCAGGG  CCAAGGCCAC  CAAGGTCAAG  GCCAAGGACA  ACAGGCCAA
CAAGGTCAGC  AAGGACAACA  GAGTCAAGGC  CAGGGTTTCC  GTGATATGCA  CCAGAAAGTG
GAGCACATAA  GGACTGGGGA  CACCATCGCT  ACACATCCCG  GTGTAGCCCA  ATGGTTCTAC
AACGACGGAA  ACCAACCACT  TGTCATCGTT  TCCGTCCTCG  ATTTAGCCAG  CCACCAGAAT
CAGCTCGACC  GCAACCCAAG  GGTATATAAA  TAAACAAAAA  CCTCAAAAGC  AATCAAGGGC
AAATCTCCTT  TTTAGCATAT  TTCTAAATTT  ATATCACAAA  AATAGCAATC  AAAAACTAAA
ATGACCAAAA  TCATACTTTT  CTAAGTTTAT  CCTTTGAAAA  TTTTAATTTT  TTTATTTTTC
AAATTTGAAT  CTATACGCCC  AAACCTCATT  TCTCAACCCT  AAACCATAAC  CCTAATCTAA
ACCTTAAACC  CTAAACCCCA  AACCCTAAAC  CCTAAACCCT  AAATCCTAAA  CCCCAGCCTT
AAACTCTAAA  CCCTAAACCC  TAAGTTTGTG  ACTTTTGATA  AAACATTAAG  TGCTATTTTG
TGACTTTGAC  CTTGGTGCTA  GTTTGAGAAC  ATAAACTTGA  TTTAGTGCTA  TTTTTGTCTT
TTTCTCATCA  TATAACTTCT  TTTATAATTA  CAGAATATCA  AAAATATGGT  TTTCTGTTTT
ATCTGTAGCC  ATTTTACTTA  GCCGGAAACA  ACCCACAAGG  CCAAGTATGG  ATAGAAGGAC
GCGAGCAACA  GCCACAAAAG  AACATCCTTA  ATGGCTTCAC  ACCAGAGGTT  CTTGCTAAAG
CTTTCAAGAT  CGATGTTAGG  ACAGCGCAAC  AACTTCAGAA  CCAGCAAGAC  AACCGTGGAA
ACATTATCCG  AGTCCAAGGC  CCATTCAGTG  TCATTAGGCC  GCCTTTGAGG  AGTCAGAGAC
CGCAGGAGGA  AGTTAACGGT  TTAGAAGAGA  CCATATGCAG  CGCGAGGTGC  ACCGATAACC
```

FIGURE 3 (Sheet 3 of 3)

```
TCGATGACCC ATCTAATGCT GACGTATACA AGCCACAGCT CGGTTACATC AGCACTCTGA
ACAGCTATGA TCTCCCCATC CTTCGCTTCC TTCGTCTCTC AGCCCTCCGT GGATCTATCC
GTCAAAACGC GATGGTGCTT CCACAGTGGA ACGCAAACGC AAACGCGGTT CTCTACGTGA
CAGACGGGGA AGCCCATGTG CAGGTGGTTA ACGACAACGG TGACAGAGTG TTCGACGGAC
AAGTCTCTCA AGGACAGCTA CTTTCCATAC CACAAGGTTT CTCCGTGGTG AAACGCGCAA
CAAGCGAACA GTTCCGGTGG ATCGAGTTCA AGACAAACGC ATCAACACAC
TTGCTGGACG AACCTCGGTC TTGAGAGGTT TACCATTAGA GGTCATATCC AATGGGTACC
AAATCTCACT CGAAGAAGCA AGAAGGGTTA AGTTCAACAC GATCGAGACC ACTTTGACGC
                                                             BglII
ACAGCAGTGG CCCAGCTAGC TACGGAGGGC CAAGGAAGGC TGATGCTTAA GAGCTTACCC
AGTGAACCTC TACTGTAAAA GGAAGTTAAA TAGTAATAAA AAGAGTAATA ATAATGTACG
CAAATGTGAC TGGTTTTGTA GAGGTTTTAG AATGTTACTC CTTTCTGAA  TAAAATAACT
CTTTTCTATC AAGGTTTAGC TAGCTGGGCT AATCTATCAA CTTCATTTTT CGACTACGTC
                  HindIII

TACACATACG TATACCGAGAT GCAGGCTTCT CCGAGGATAT AGTGACAGTA TCT
```

FIGURE 4 (Sheet 1 of 2)

Oligonucleotide duplex A

```
                                   NcoI         BamHI HindIII
5'GGGTTTTTATTTTTAATTTTCTTTCAAATACTTCCACCATGGGTAACGGATCCA        3'
3'CCCAAAAATAAAAATTAAAAGAAAGTTTATGAAGGTGGTACCCATTGCCTAGGTTCGA    5'
```

Oligonucleotide duplex B

```
                                                                    SphI XhoI BamHI
5'CATGAAACTTCCTCAAAAGCTTCCCCTTTTATGCCTTCCTTTGTTTTGGCCAATACTTTGTAGCTGTTACGCATGCTCGAG    3'
3'     TTTGAAGGAGTTTTCGAAGGGGAAATACGGAAGGAAACAAACCGGTTATGAAACATCGACAAATGCGTACGAGCTCGAG  5'
```

Oligonucleotide duplex C

```
   SphI            XhoI      PstI BamHI
5'    CT|CTGGCAGTCCCGCCCTCGAGCCCCCTGCAG       3'
3'GTACGA|GACCGTCAGGGCGGGAGCTCGGGGGACGTCCTAG  5'
      PROB12|Mature phytase
      signal
      peptide
```

FIGURE 4 (Sheet 2 of 2)

Oligonucleotide duplex D

```
                                      XhoI  EcoRV PstI     BglII        HindIII
        NcoI   |
               HisGlySerThrAla|LeuAlaValProAlaSer
        5' CATGGCTCTACAGCT|CTGGCAGTCCCCGCCCTCGAGGATATCCTGCAGATCTCCCCA  3'
        3'      CGAGATGTCGA|GACCGTCAGGGCGGGAGCTCCTATAGGACGTCTAGAGGGGTTCGA  5'
               CruA signal |Mature phytase   Multiple cloning site
                peptide
```

Oligonucleotide duplex E

```
        5' AATTCAGATCTCCATGGATCGATGAGCT  3'
        3'     GTCTAGAGGTACCTAGCTAC  5'
```

Oligonucleotide duplex F

```
                                HgaI SITE
                                α-AMYLASE

           SphI
        5'    CT|GCAAATCTTAATGGGACGGCTGATG  3'
        3' GTACGA|CGTTTAGAATTACCCTGCGACTACGTCAT  5'
              PROB12|α-Amylase
              signal |
              peptide
```

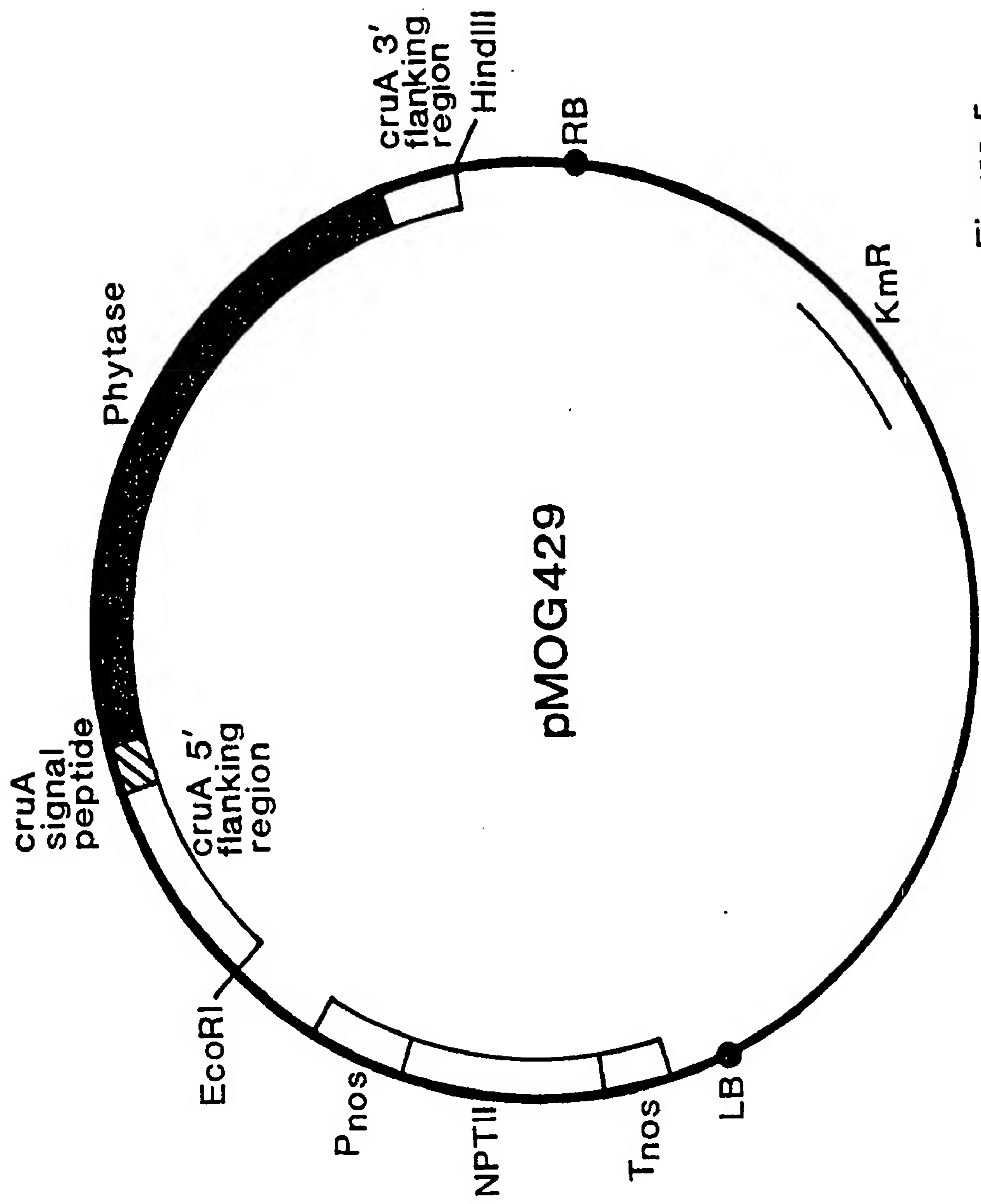Figure 5

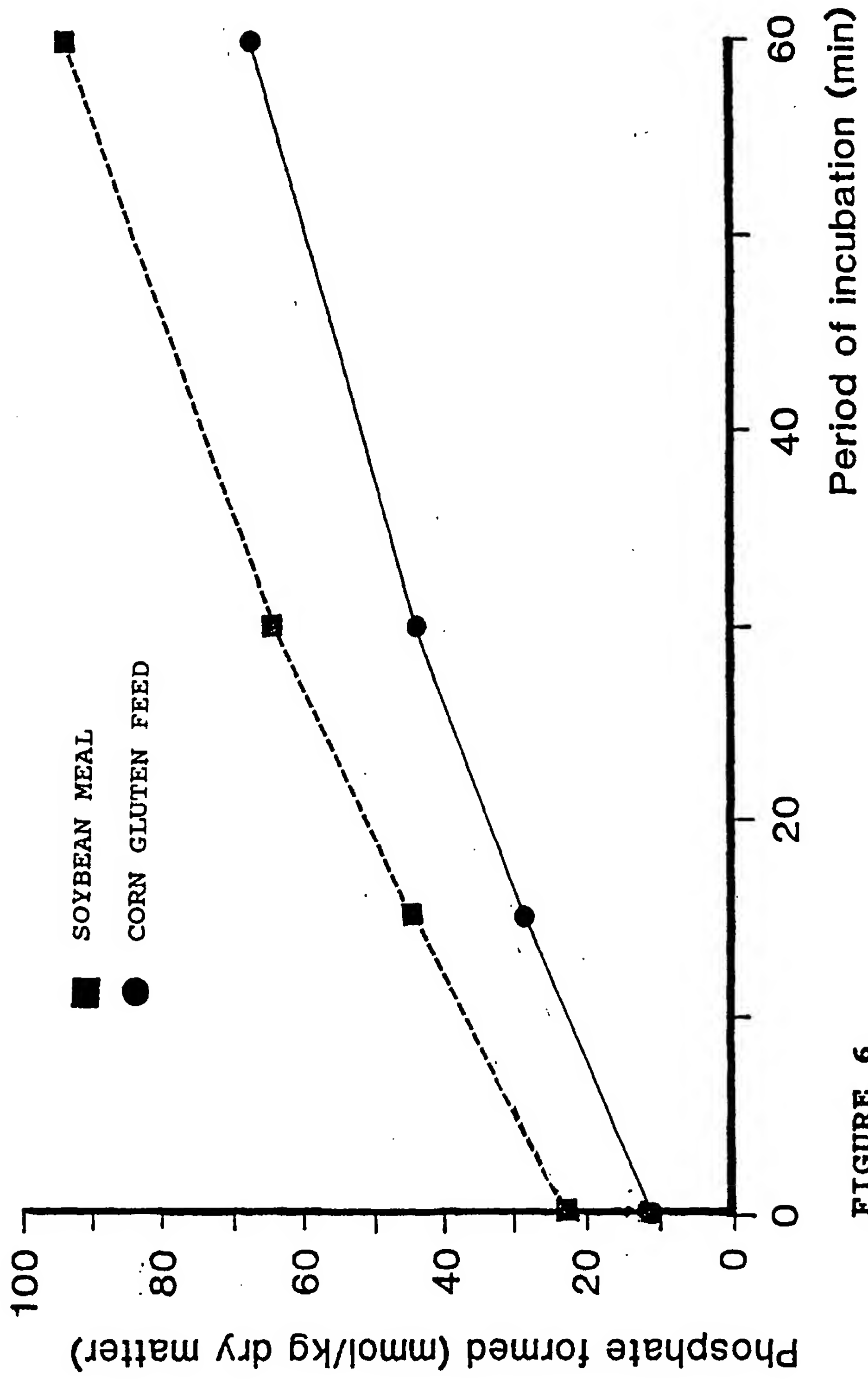FIGURE 6

FIGURE 7 (Sheet 1 of 2)

<u>XbaI</u>   <u>HgaI</u>

         *

```
TCTAGAGTC  ATGAAACAAC  AAAAACGGCT  TTACGCCCGA  TTGCTGACGC  TGTTATTTGC
                       ‾‾‾‾‾PstI‾‾                              ‾‾HgaI‾‾

GCTCATCTTC TTGCTGCCTC  ATTCTGCAGC  AGCGGGCGGCA AATCTTAATG  GGACGCTGAT
                       ‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾                          ‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾‾

GCAGTATTTT GAATGGTACA  TGCCCAATGA  CGGCCAACAT  TGGAAGCGTT  TGCAAAACGA

CTCGGCATAT TTGGCTGAAC  ACGGTATTAC  TGCCGTCTGG  ATTCCCCCGG  CATATAAGGG

AACGAGCCAA GCGGATGTGG  GCTACGGTGC  TTACGACCTT  TATGATTTAG  GGGAGTTTCA

TCAAAAAGGG ACGGTTCGGA  CAAAGTACGG  CACAAAAGGA  GAGCTGCAAT  CTGCGATCAA

AAGTCTTCAT TCCCGCGACA  TTAACGTTTA  CGGGGATGTG  GTCATCAACC  ACAAAGGCGG

CGCTGATGCG ACCGAAGATG  TAACCGCGGT  TGAAGTCGAT  CCCGCTGACC  GCAACCGCGT

AATTTCAGGA GAACACCTAA  TTAAAGCCTG  GACACATTTT  CATTTTCCGG  GGCGGGGCAG

CACATACAGC GATTTTAAAT  GGCATTGGTA  CCATTTTGAC  GGAACCGATT  GGGACGAGTC

CCGAAAGCTG AACCGCCATCT ATAAGTTTCA  AGGAAAGGCT  TGGGATTGGG  AAGTTCCAA

TGAAAACGGC AACTATGATT  ATTTGATGTA  TGCCGACATC  GATTATGACC  ATCCTGATGT

CGCAGCAGAA ATTAAGAGAT  GGGGCACTTG  GTATGCCAAT  GAACTGCAAT  TGGACGGTTT

CCGTCTTGAT GCTGTCAAAC  ACATTAAATT  TTCTTTTTTG  CGGGATTGGG  TTAATCATGT

CAGGGAAAAA ACGGGGAAGG  AAATGTTTAC  GGTAGCTGAA  TATTGGCAGA  ATGACTTGGG
```

FIGURE 7 (Sheet 2 of 2)

```
CGCGCTGGAA  AACTATTTGA  ACAAAACAAA  TTTAATCAT   TCAGTGTTTG  ACGTGCCGCT

TCATTATCAG  TTCCATGCTG  CATCGACACA  GGGAGGCGGC  TATGATATGA  GGAAATTGCT

GAACGGTACG  GTCGTTTCCA  AGCATCCGTT  GAAATCGGTT  ACATTGTCG   ATAACCATGA
                             SalI

TACACAGCCG  GGGCAATCGC  TTGAGTCGAC  TGTCCAAACA  TGGTTTAAGC  CGCTTGCTTA

CGCTTTTATT  CTCACAAGGG  AATCTGGATA  CCCTCAGGTT  TTCTACGGGG  ATATGTACGG

GACGAAAGGA  GACTCCCAGC  GCGAAATTCC  TGCCTTGAAA  CACAAAATTG  AACCGATCTT

AAAAGCGAGA  AAACAGTATG  CGTACGGAGC  ACAGCATGAT  TATTTCGACC  ACCATGACAT

TGTCGGCTGG  ACAAGGGAAG  GCGACAGCTC  GGTTGCAAAT  TCAGGTTTGG  CGGCATTAAT

AACAGACGGA  CCCGGTGGGG  CAAAGCGAAT  GTATGTCGGC  CGGCAAAACG  CCGGTGAGAC

ATGGCATGAC  ATTACCGGAA  ACCGTTCGGA  GCCGGTTGTC  ATCAATTCGG  AAGGCTGGGG

AGAGTTTCAC  GTAAACGGCG  GGTCGGTTTC  AATTTATGTT  CAAAGATAGA  AGAGCAGAGA
              BamHI

GGACGGATTT  CCTGAAGGAA  ATCCGTTTTT  TTATTTTGCC  CGTCTTATAA  ATTTCTTTGA

TTACATTTTA  TAATTAATTT  TAACAAAGTG  TCATCAGCCC  TCAGGAAGGA  CTTGCTGACA

GTTTGAATCG  CATAGGTAAG  GCGGGGATGA  AATGGCAACG  TTATCTGATG  TAGCAAAGAA
                                        BclI

AGCAAAATGTG TCGAAAAATGA CGGTATCGCG  GGTGATCA
```
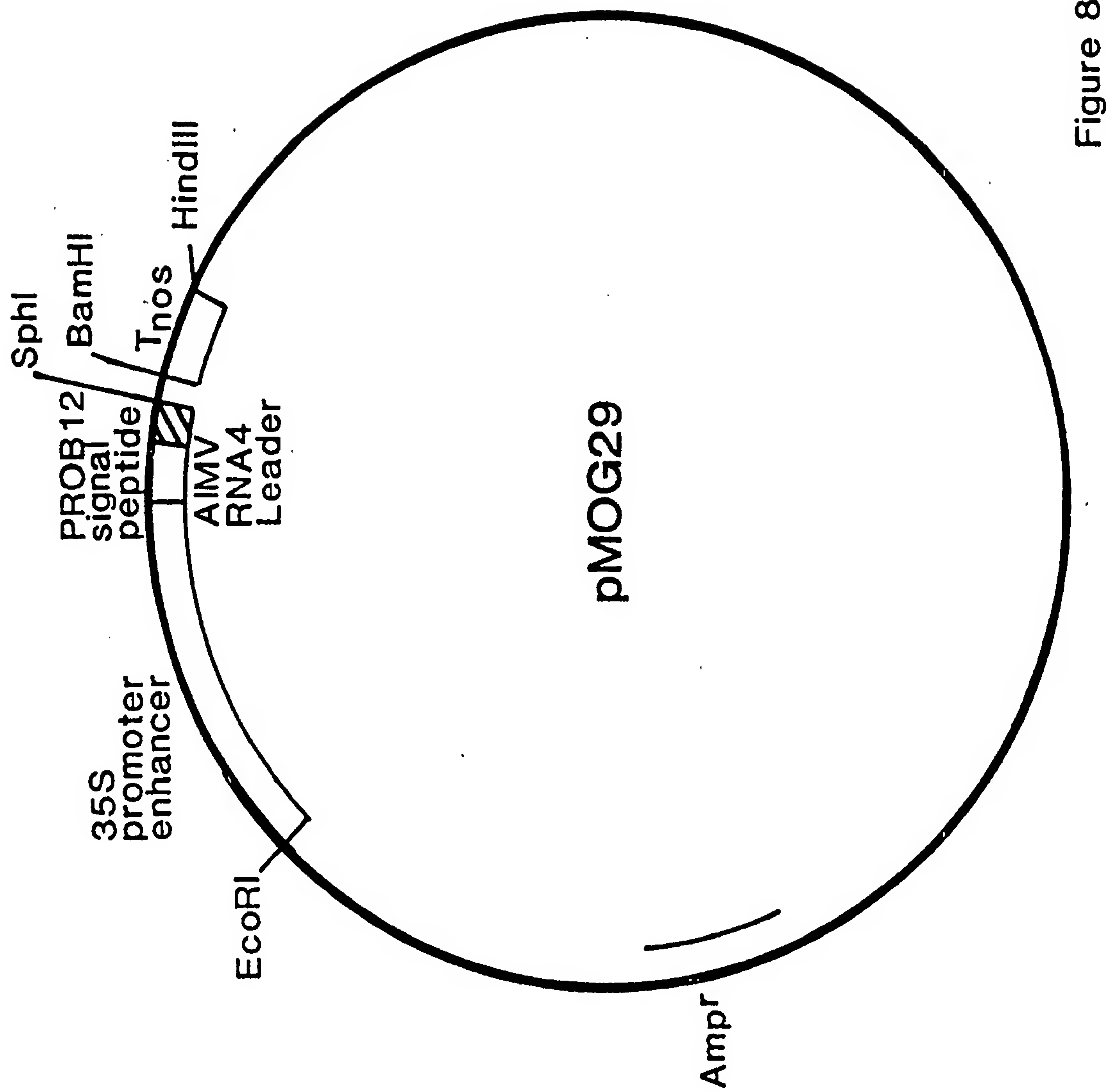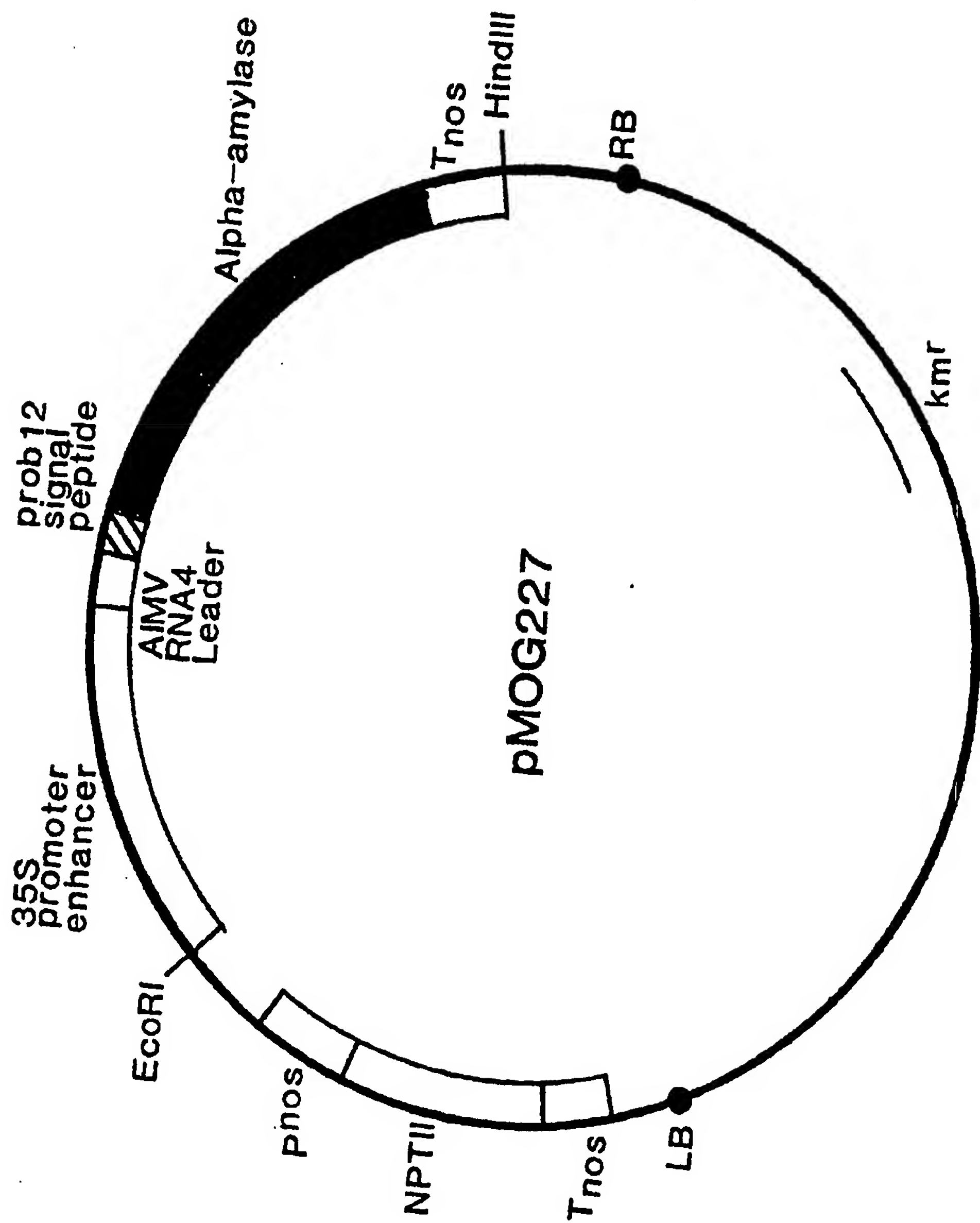
Figure 8

Figure 9

IN VITRO DIGESTABILITY MODEL

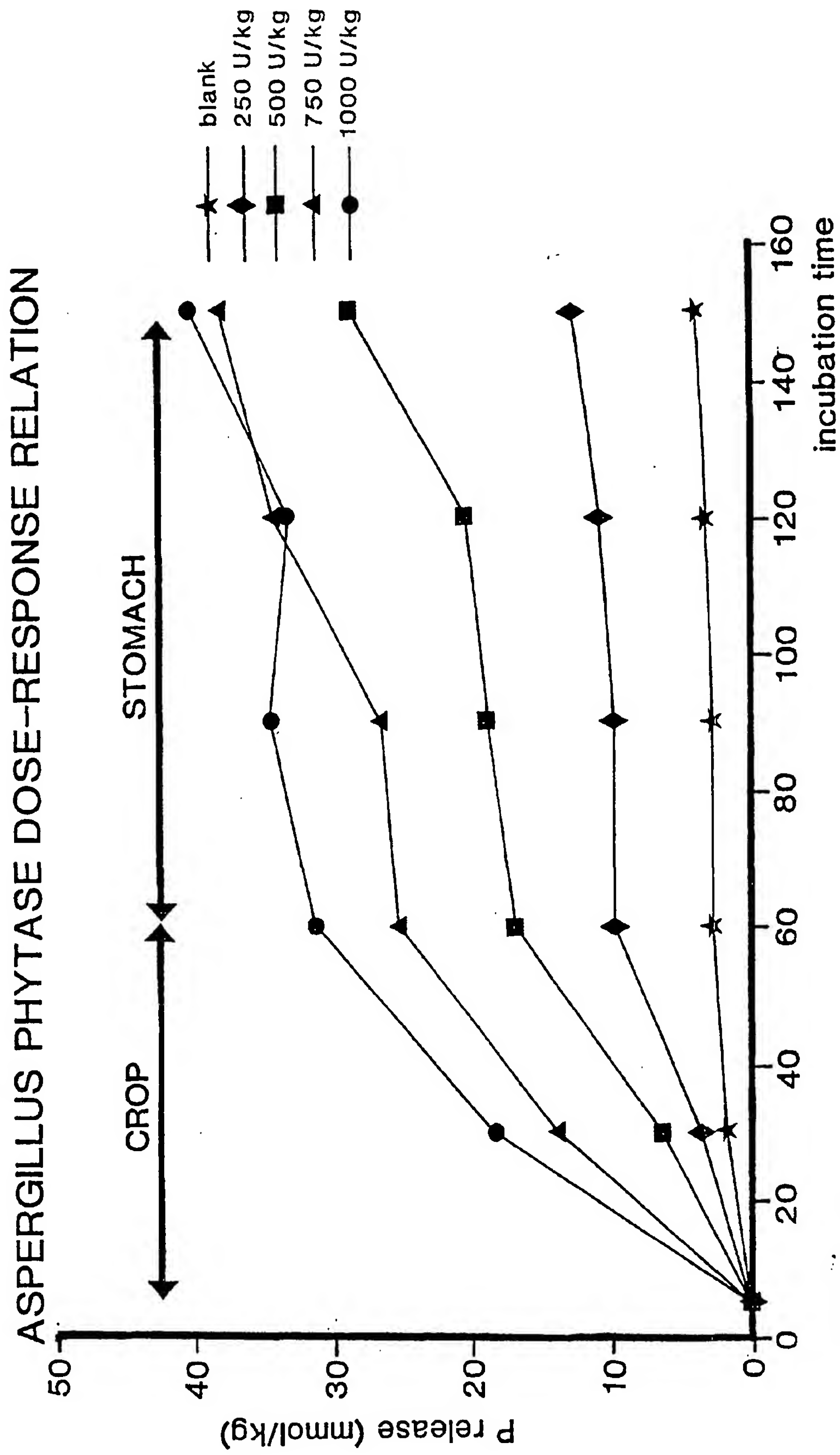ASPERGILLUS PHYTASE DOSE-RESPONSE RELATION

FIGURE 10

IN VITRO DIGESTABILITY MODEL

ASPERGILLUS & TOBACCO SEED PHYTASE

Figure 11

Figure 12

Figure 13